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Theodore

AN
ACCURATE ACCOUNT
OF
LORD MACARTNEY'S
EMBASSY TO CHINA.

Price 2s. 6d.

ACCURATE ACCOUNT

OF THE

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TCHIEN LOONG.
Present Emperor of China.

Published May 26. 1795 by Vernor & Hood Birchin Lane LONDON

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John Kirkman P. O.

AN
ACCURATE ACCOUNT
OF
LORD MACARTNEY'S
EMBASSY TO CHINA;

CAREFULLY ABRIDGED FROM
THE ORIGINAL WORK;

WITH
ALTERATIONS AND CORRECTIONS,

BY THE EDITOR,

WHO WAS ALSO AN ATTENDANT ON THE EMBASSY,

Embellished with Plates.

LONDON:

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ADVERTISEMENT.

THE Editor of this little volume, who was fortunate enough to be an attendant on the Embassy, and of course an eye witness to most of the occurrences here related, had, at one time, formed an idea of giving to the Public a narrative of the various objects which naturally met his observation, from his own manuscript, in order that every class of readers might, at a small expence, partake of the advantage to be derived from it.

But on perusing the Work published by Mr. Anderson, he found it, on the whole, so clearly correct, so accurately

descriptive, and so rationally conclusive, on many points which have been deemed disputable by untravelled theorists, that he was induced to quit his first intention, and to pursue the plan which he has here adopted, of abridging Mr. Anderson's Book, with such alterations, corrections, and additions, as were most forcibly impressed on his mind.

The prospect of a country, luxuriantly rich, and beautifully diversified, will excite in different minds sensations widely opposite; but in delineating it, if the pencil be faithful, the object viewed will appear precisely the same, with some trifling variations in the tints and colouring.

So

So with respect to the customs, the manners, and the peculiar habits of mankind, those who are careful observers, and trace human nature through all her windings and whimsical propensities, discover much which may have escaped the eye of the more common observer. Those shades of difference, however, will, on enquiry, be generally found to arise from a marked attention to the characters of a few. Contemplate the mass of any society, and probably it will appear, that the conclusions of the general observer will be found as just and as worthy of attention, as those of the most minute enquirer.

Thus

COMMENTS

Thus much it has been thought necessary to premise, in order to shew, that though Mr. Anderson and myself may differ on trifles, there is no material variation of opinion between us, which will always be the case where two or more people have the same opportunity of viewing the same objects, and are all determined to relate the truth, agreeable to the best of their judgment.

THE EDITOR.

MAY 25, 1795.

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ANARRATIVE

A
NARRATIVE
OF
LORD MACARTNEY'S
EMBASSY TO CHINA.

CHAP. I.

EVERY arrangement and preparation having been made to ensure the success, and add to the splendor and accommodation of an embassy, which had long engaged a considerable share of the public attention, Lord Macartney, with his whole suite, went on board the *Lion*, at Spithead, September 21, 1792; and on the 29th of the same month we took our final departure, accompanied by the *Hindustan East Indiaman*, and the *Jackall* brig.

Nothing particular happened for some days, except that the *Jackall* parted company in a gale of wind, in the Bay of Biscay, and did not rejoin us till after we had left Batavia.

B

On

On the 10th of October we made land. Passed the Defart Island and Porto Sancto; and next day cast anchor in Funchal Bay, in the island of Madeira.

Lieutenant Campbell having been sent to the Governor of the Madeiras, to notify the Ambassador's arrival, salutes of guns were interchanged between the Lion and the garrison. Soon after, the British Consul, attended by several English gentlemen and merchants, came to pay their respects to his Excellency, and to invite him on shore.

Having accepted the invitation, the yard arms were manned, during his Lordship's passage from the ship to the shore; salutes were repeated; and at the landing-place, the Governor of the Madeiras, the British Consul, and the principal inhabitants, received the Ambassador with every mark of esteem and congratulation. During his stay, he was splendidly entertained by the British Consul and the Governor on successive days; and before his departure, had the honour of a visit in return on board the Lion, from all the most distinguished persons of the island.

The town of Funchal is about three miles in length, and one in breadth. Its population is very considerable; consisting of Portuguese, mulattoes, negroes, and a few British who are engaged in the commerce of the place. The natives seem to be
courteous

courteous in their disposition, and attentive to strangers.

The island of Madeira is extremely mountainous; but the views are beautifully romantic; and verdure and fertility cover the most unpromising situations.

We took our leave of Madeira on the 18th of October, and on the 21st anchored in Santa Cruz Bay in the isle of Teneriffe.

This island, in extent, riches, and population, is the most considerable of those known by the general appellation of the Canaries.

The town of Santa Cruz is pretty large, well built, and populous, and is defended by two forts, which also command the Bay.

The Peak of Teneriffe is well known to be one of the highest mountains in the world; and it presents a number of objects which the curious enquirer into nature can never cease to contemplate with admiration. It rises in the centre of the island, and its ascent from Santa Cruz may be about twenty miles. Some of the principal gentlemen of the embassy, with attendants, resolved to visit the Peak. I happened to be of the party. We set out on the morning of the 24th, prepared and equipped for the expedition, and furnished with guides; but after encountering a series of dangers, night coming on, we determined to take

up our lodging at the bottom of the peak, to which we were now advanced, and to renew our journey in the morning. At an early hour we again set out; but were obliged by the innumerable difficulties and dangers we encountered, to relinquish the gratification of reaching the summit. After a fatiguing excursion of two days, we returned to Santa Cruz; and on the 27th we bid adieu to the Canaries.

The Cape de Verd Islands lay next in our route; and Port Praya Bay, in the isle of St. Jago, received us on the 2d of November.

The town of Praya is chiefly remarkable for the advantage of its port, where outward-bound ships of all nations frequently touch.

On the 18th of November we passed the line.

On the 1st of December we came to anchor in Rio Janeiro harbour, in the Brazils; where we found an opportunity of transmitting letters to England by a South Sea whaler.

Next day an officer was dispatched to announce the Ambassador's arrival to the Viceroy. Being then at his country residence, the usual salutes were suspended; however, the Deputy Viceroy came in state next morning, to compliment Lord Macartney; but his Lordship being much indisposed, was unable to receive him in person, Sir George Staunton and Sir Erasmus Gower, therefore,

fore, represented his Excellency on this occasion. The day following, the Deputy Viceroy, in the name of his principal, congratulated his Excellency the Ambassador on his arrival, and made a tender of a house for his residence during his stay.

This obliging offer being accepted, on the 7th at noon, his Lordship proceeded on shore with the usual formalities, and was received with all possible distinction by the Viceroy, attended by his guards and the most distinguished persons of the place. After taking some refreshment at the Viceroy's palace, the Ambassador, and the principal gentlemen of his suite, were accommodated with carriages to convey them to the house destined for their reception, about two miles distant from the city.

On the 10th, Lord Macartney, with his whole suite, paid a ceremonial visit to the Viceroy. In the evening his Lordship and attendants took a walk in the public garden, the usual amusement, and the scene of the principal entertainment of the inhabitants of the place. This garden is laid out into grass plots and gravel walks, shaded with trees of perpetual verdure, interspersed with lamps. At one end we observed a large structure for music and dancing, which it seems are favourite recreations here, at the proper seasons of the year.

The following day, the Viceroy, in grand procession,

cession, returned Lord Macartney's visit. A discharge of artillery announced the moment of his departure from his palace. The Ambassador stood ready to receive him on his arrival; and after conducting him to the principal apartment, presented the gentlemen of the embassy, who were all respectfully noticed by the Viceroy. An elegant repast concluded the visit.

The Viceroy's dress was very splendid. It was scarlet cloth embroidered with gold and precious stones. His attendants, in general, wore a livery of green and gold.

The town of Rio Janeiro, by some called St. Sebastian, has been so often and so fully described, that we should deem any repetition of it superfluous.

Lord Macartney, being still under indisposition, privately returned on board the *Lion*, on the afternoon of the 15th; and every preparation having been made for renewing our voyage, we left the harbour of Rio Janeiro on the 18th.

Amid the waste of waters, the festival of Christmas overtook us: it is scarcely necessary to say that it did not pass unobserved, or its social rites unenjoyed.

For some preceding and following days our voyage was barren of occurrences; however, on the last day of the old year we reached the island of
Tristan

Tristan de Cunha, a barren and almost inaccessible rock, near the centre of the Southern Ocean. Uninhabited by men, it is the resort of a prodigious variety of marine fowls; and its surrounding seas abound in whales and other tenants of the deep. An officer being sent on shore in the cutter, reported that the beach was favourable, and that fresh water was plenty.

Next morning, January 1, 1793, it was intended to send out a watering party; and another on natural and philosophical researches. Both schemes were frustrated. A heavy gale came on at midnight; and had not the wind providentially changed, at a moment of imminent danger, our destruction would have been inevitable.

During many successive days the weather was generally moderate; and a month passed away without our seeing land. On the 1st of February, however, we discovered the isle of Amsterdam, in latitude $30^{\circ} 43'$ south, and longitude $77^{\circ} 20'$ east. We came to anchor on the east side of this island; and found here five seal hunters from the Isle of France. They had mutually engaged to spend eighteen months on this unpropitious spot; six were already elapsed; and during that period, it seems, they had killed no fewer than 8000 seals. These men, with the utmost civility, conducted us to a hut they had built; and served as our conductors.

ductors round their usurped domain. They had formed a path, with incredible labour, over a mountain, crowned with a volcano, which throws out a substance resembling saltpetre. In ascending this path, we found a small spring of boiling hot water, in which some fish were perfectly dressed in a few minutes. The whole island, which is about eight miles long and six broad, has a volcanic appearance; and produces neither tree nor shrub. Vast quantities of fish were caught here, and salted for use; many species were very delicate, particularly lobsters.

The night of our departure being dark, afforded us an opportunity of contemplating one of the most awful spectacles in nature. The flames of the volcano were seen rising from six distant openings. Whether this was its usual appearance, or only one of its occasional eruptions, we had no opportunity of ascertaining.

On the 18th we came in sight of the Trial Rocks. They scarcely rise above the surface of the deep; but the waves dash against them with so much impetuosity, that they run mountains high. This fortunately marks the situation of these formidable rocks, and in reality lessens the danger by magnifying its appearance.

Soon after, we entered the Straits of Sunda; and on the 6th of March arrived in the Road of Batavia,

via, where we immediately received the salutes of all the English ships, and of one French vessel. Early next morning, the garrison fired a salute, which was returned; and soon after a deputation from the Governor General waited on Lord Macartney, to invite him on shore.

His Lordship having resolved to land on the 8th, which was the anniversary of the birth-day of the Prince of Orange, a royal salute was fired in honour of the day; and afterwards the Ambassador went on shore, with the usual ceremonies and attendants. The Royal Batavian Hotel was fixed on for the residence of the suite; and in the afternoon the baggage was safely landed before the door. This hotel is an elegant and spacious structure, and was built at the public expence, for the accommodation of occasional visitors of distinction. The stile of living here is expensive; European liquors of every description being at a very high price; but when it is considered that the landlord is obliged to import them from Europe, and pays an annual rent to government of sixty thousand rix-dollars, it may reasonably be supposed, that the profits must be great, to counterbalance ~~his~~ ^{his} risque and certain outgoings.

The Prince of Orange's birth-day was kept with those demonstrations of joy, which are justly paid
to

to the supreme head, in every country in which society has been formed, and civilization has taken place. The Governor General gave a splendid entertainment to the principal persons in Batavia, at his country residence, to which Lord Macartney went by invitation. A ball and supper concluded the fête, and mirth and festivity were prolonged beyond the hours of night.

The uninteresting occurrences of every day, during our stay at Batavia, would tire: they were marked with little variety. I employed my leisure in viewing the city and suburbs; but they have been too often visited to admit much novel description; it must not therefore be expected, did our limits allow us to enter into detail.

Batavia, the oriental emporium of the Dutch, is the principal city in the island of Java: it is almost square, surrounded by high walls and gates, and protected by forts, which are well-garrisoned. The streets are spacious, and well paved; the buildings in general are uniformly elegant; and through every principal street runs a canal of considerable width, lined on both sides with trees of perennial leaves. In a climate so intolerably hot, this furnishes an agreeable refreshment; but perhaps the quantity of stagnant or slow moving water, thus collected, encreases the natural insalubrity of the place. Indeed, so fatal is the climate of Batavia

to Europeans, that scarcely one in twenty revisit their native land; and those who escape death there, carry with them emaciated forms and debilitated constitutions to the grave. From the registers of the public hospital, it appears, that the average number of deaths, annually, in that single receptacle of misery, does not amount to much less than five thousand. But what opinion shall we form of Dutch policy, when we learn, that no means are used to prevent the fatal effects of the climate; that on the contrary, filth and putrid substances every where lie unremoved and unregarded, particularly in the suburbs, till the air is contaminated to the last degree, and destruction almost inevitable. It has, however, been said, that this negligence arises from political considerations; and that a climate naturally unpropitious, is purposely rendered more deleterious, by a total inattention to cleanliness, lest too many adventurers should be tempted to share the golden harvest which this country so abundantly presents. The population of Batavia, however, is nevertheless very considerable; amounting, at a moderate calculation, to two hundred thousand souls, of whom a majority are Chinese. These chiefly inhabit the suburbs, or Chinese Town, and appear to be an industrious and regular people. They carry on a variety of trades and manufactures; for Europeans think

think it beneath them to engage in mechanical operations.

The Malays are also very numerous in Batavia, and possess all the malignant qualities that so universally adhere to that ferocious race of men. Nothing but constant severity, it is said, can keep them within the bounds of duty. One morning, being at breakfast in the hotel, the most piercing shrieks reached my ears. On enquiry, I found they proceeded from a Malay slave, whom the master of the house had ordered to be punished for some neglect. This miserable wretch appeared to be upwards of seventy years of age: two slaves were scourging him with small canes, which they continued to do with unrelenting severity for more than half an hour. His whole back and his hips were mangled and bleeding; yet no sooner was the punishment suspended, than he was sent to his usual labours, without pity, without any application to his wounds. The impression this sight made, occasioned a remonstrance with the landlord. He justified himself by observing, that without the most exemplary punishments, and the effect of constant terror, no person in his house would be a moment safe from the Malays. This wretched race is generally employed in a menial capacity; yet scarcely a night passes in which they do not commit some depredations; and not unfrequently murder

der those whom they rob. On the evening of the 16th, one of our people had a very narrow escape from a gang of them. Being entrusted with the care of re-conveying a part of the baggage on board, and disappointed in meeting a person who was to have the direction of the proa, the Malays saw his unprotected state; the temptation was too strong to be resisted; and nothing but the resolute use of a drawn sword could have saved him from destruction, or the property from plunder.

Adapted to the depravity of the people in general, is the nature of the government of Batavia. It is arbitrary in a high degree; and the rigour, with which every species of delinquency is punished, can only find a justification in the ferocious disposition and the base propensities of the natives.

Soon after his landing, Lord Macartney being seized with a fit of the gout, put a stop to all the festivities which were intended to fill up the time of our stay. Several gentlemen of his suite also fell ill, in less than a week after our arrival; and to facilitate their recovery, they were ordered on board their respective ships.

During our stay here, a party of us attended the theatre. The play was the tragedy of Mahomet; and the entertainment, Barnaby Rudge. The audience seemed vastly amused; but not understanding the language, we could form no

idea of the merits of the performance, except from the attitudes and expression of the actors, which seemed to be correct and impressive.

We left Batavia on the 16th, and next morning we made sail, passing the Isle of Oorooft, which lies in the middle of the Bay; and notwithstanding the smallness of its size, contains a populous town, many elegant villas, and several flourishing manufactures. The superior salubrity of the air recommends this and some other surrounding isles, to those whose circumstances qualify them to reside where pleasure or health invites.

CHAP. II.

Voyage continued—Arrive at Cochin China—Transactions there.

THE Jackall brig being now given up for lost, Lord Macartney had purchased a French vessel at Batavia to supply her place, and gave her the name of the Clarence. The Clarence, however, had only joined us the day before we received
some

some intelligence of the Jackall by a ship from Ostend to Batavia; and this intelligence was confirmed by the brig joining us on the 23d, to the great joy of the whole embassy.

On the 29th we lost one of our crew, of the name of Leighton. He had gone ashore to wash his linen at Sumatra beach, and was found covered with wounds, and murdered by the Malays. To the savage disposition of these people, this event gave an additional, though melancholy, testimony. The last rites were paid to the body of the deceased with the utmost decency and respect; and the feelings of the whole ship's company on the occasion, were the best eulogium on his character and conduct.

Lord Macartney signified his intention of going on shore in the afternoon of this day, to view the spot where the Honourable Colonel Cathcart, (who held a similar situation to his Lordship some years back) was buried; all that was to be expected from our mission, was of course anticipated by him, but his death put an end to that diplomatic attempt.

Passing a variety of islands, without any occurrence worthy of remark, we came to anchor in Pulo Condore Bay, May 16. Soon after our arrival, a party of gentlemen, accompanied by one of

the Chinese interpreters, went on shore. Some of the natives met us on the beach, with whom we proceeded till we came at a small distance to a village of bamboo huts; one of which was the residence of the chief, whose authority extended over the whole island. Like the rest, his habitation was formed of bamboo, raised on four posts, a few feet from the ground. Here we found several natives of Cochin China, who wore no other dress but a piece of linen round their waists, and a black turban on their heads. The chief was habited in a loose black gown, and a pair of black silk trowsers. He was also decorated with a silver cord thrown over his shoulder, from which a small bag of elegant workmanship was suspended. In common with the rest, he wore a turban, but no shoes. He appeared to be the object of very great respect.

Near his palace, if it may be so called, stood the temple. Externally, it resembled the other buildings; but the inside was adorned with various military weapons of Europe, particularly some old fire arms, of which they evidently did not know the use, and seemed to consider them only as objects of veneration. The discharge of a musket against a tree, excited the most lively alarm and astonishment. They eagerly examined the place
where

where the ball entered; they even contrived to extract it, and then presented it to each other, with the most visible emotion.

Having entered into a treaty with the chief for a supply of buffaloes, poultry and fruit, with which he was to furnish us the next day, we were regaled with rice and fish. Finding that cocoa-nuts would be acceptable, he immediately ordered some to be procured for us. The dexterity these people shewed in climbing the trees that produced them, is astonishing. On our return to the ship, we observed caves on the beach very ingeniously constructed.

Pulo Condore is but thinly peopled. The means of subsistence is difficult; and population of course must be influenced thereby. This island is subject to the King of Cochin China.

To our utter astonishment, on landing next morning, to receive the stipulated supply of provisions, we found the village deserted, and every moveable carried off. A letter in Chinese characters, left in the hut of the chief, explained the reasons of this sudden and unexpected movement. It seems they were apprehensive we meditated hostilities against them, from our ships coming to anchor in their bay; they earnestly implored us to spare their humble dwellings, which they intended to re-occupy on our departure; and dwelt on their poverty, which they perhaps concluded was their

best protection, and the strongest argument to allay European rapacity.

Being obliged to set sail without our expected supply, we left Pulo Condore on the 18th, and passing several islands of different forms and magnitudes, we anchored in Turon Bay in Cochin China, on the evening of the 26th.

Soon after our arrival the Ambassador received a visit from several mandarins, who came in great state. They were liberally entertained; but at first seemed averse to taste the wines and other liquors which were set before them. This reserve appearing to arise from fear, Lord Macartney set them an example, when they indulged very freely; shewing a particular predilection for cherry and raspberry brandy. These chiefs wore nearly the same kind of dress as we have described at Pulo Condore, except that they had a girdle of silver cordage. Their domestics were clad in a fancy dress, resembling tartan; and their legs and feet were wholly bare.

Intelligence of our arrival having reached the court, in the evening of the 29th the prime minister of the King of Cochin China, attended by several mandarins, came, in his Majesty's name, to invite the Ambassador to dinner. His Excellency obligingly accepted the invitation; but postponed the day to the 4th of June.

In

In the interim, he received a present from the King, consisting of a great number of buffaloes, hogs, fowls, ducks, some bags of rice, and some jars of samptsoo, a Chinese liquor, reckoned very delicious.

We visited the town of Fie-Foo, while we lay here. It is nothing but an assemblage of wretched bamboo huts; but it has a good market; and were the industry of the natives equal to the fertility of the soil, this place would be remarkably abundant. They seem, however, to have little knowledge of agriculture: they subsist therefore chiefly on the spontaneous produce of the earth; and make their women a principal branch of their trade. For a certain consideration, they are always ready to consign them to the society of Europeans who touch here, without any apparent sense of impropriety. In one of our excursions to the shore, we saw six elephants performing a variety of unwieldy feats, for the entertainment of the mandarins who had assembled here.

The 4th of June, the birth-day of our most gracious Sovereign, was observed with every mark of loyalty and attachment. The morning was ushered in with a salute of twenty-one guns; the royal standard of Great Britain, the St. George's ensign, and the union, were all displayed at their appropriate stations. In honour of this day, so dear to
Britons,

Britons, wherever placed, Lord Macartney had fixed his landing. Several mandarins waited his arrival on shore; and attended him, under an escort of his own troops, to the residence of the prime minister. A collation was here provided for him, consisting of all the dainties the country afforded; after partaking of which, he returned on board, interchanging mutual civilities with his hosts.

Thus far affairs proceeded to the satisfaction of all parties in Cochin China; but the Master of the Lion, who had gone in the cutter to take soundings in the bay, having unreflectingly begun to survey the coast, was immediately seized, with seven men, who accompanied him, and carried prisoners to the capital.

When we first received this disagreeable intelligence, the impression it made is not easily conceived. It was not only the danger to which our countrymen had exposed themselves, that affected the embassy; but as this kingdom is tributary to China, it was feared, that a representation of this inconsiderate conduct, as to them it might appear criminal, would have an injurious effect on all our future proceedings; and that the object so much at heart—to inspire confidence, would be changed into suspicion and alarm. The good offices of the friendly mandarins were instantly and earnestly solicited.

solicited. One of the interpreters was sent on shore to promote an enquiry and furnish an explanation; and on the 13th, we had the happiness to see the Master and his men return in safety, after an absence of six days. What they suffered, during this period of suspense, cannot well be described. Nothing but a respect for the country to which they belonged, and a regard to the mission on which they were employed, could have saved them from certain death.

This was not the only unpleasant event that befel us here. We lost a respectable gentleman, the Purser of the Lion, who died, after a few days illness, on the 12th, and was interred on shore with all possible solemnity and respect. An inscription, cut in wood, was placed on his grave.

CHAP. III.

Proceed up the Yellow Sea—Disembark—And arrive at Mettow.

HAVING left Cochin China on the 16th of June, the Jackall and Clarence brig, with Sir George Staunton and one of Lord Macartney's secretaries,

secretaries, were dispatched to Macao, on the 20th. These gentlemen were charged with letters to the commissioners sent from England to notify the expected embassy. The two gentlemen who were the Chinese interpreters, took this opportunity of proceeding to revisit their relations and friends, from whom they had been long separated. In taking leave of our countrymen, they displayed a sensibility worthy of the most enlightened minds.

From the intelligence brought by Sir George Staunton, who rejoined us on the 23d, very flattering hopes were entertained of the success of the embassy. At a time when we were approaching the scene of negociation, this news was highly gratifying.

During our passage up the Yellow Sea, we passed numerous islands. Several of the headlands, which in our charts were as yet without a name, received the appellations of some of the most distinguished members of the embassy.

July 21, we cast anchor in Jangangfoe Bay. Several officers were immediately sent in the cutter to Mettow, to reconnoitre the coast, and to ascertain if there were any practicable means of approaching nearer the capital on shipboard. The cutter returned on the 25th. They gave a very favourable report of the reception they had experienced from the Chinese; but reported, that it
was

was absolutely impracticable to proceed farther, on account of shoals and other natural impediments. It was therefore resolved to disembark; and a gentleman, accompanied by an interpreter, sailed in the cutter to Mettow, to make arrangements for this purpose. The mandarins promised to provide large junks for the reception of the suite and baggage, as soon as the wind proved favourable.

Soon after, we received a present of some bullocks and sheep, several hogs, poultry, vegetables, and other productions of the country. A principal mandarin also came on board the Lion, who finally settled the mode and the day of the disembarkation. He was invited to dinner; but not being provided with his usual table appendages, he seemed to feel himself in an unpleasant situation. The Chinese neither use knives nor forks: whether we appeared most ridiculous to him, or he to us, it may be difficult to decide. He expressed the greatest admiration of the ship, and the various arrangements and conveniences he saw on board; but what seemed to delight him most, was his being hoisted into one of our boats in the accommodation chair.

The greatest part of the baggage having been previously put on board the junks, sent to receive it; on the 5th of August, several more came alongside the Lion to receive the remainder, and to take the suite. Before his Excellency disembarked, the
Captain

Captain ordered the company to man ship; he was saluted with three cheers from the seamen, and a discharge of guns from the ships.

The junk intended for his Lordship's reception, being found inconvenient and filthy, as indeed they were all, he quitted it and went on board the Clarence brig.

On this occasion we occupied no fewer than twenty junks, of about an hundred tons burden; and proceeding slowly, from the various difficulties of the river, the whole fleet anchored opposite the palace of the principal mandarin in Mettow, in the afternoon of the same day.

This town, the first which we had seen in China, possessed none of those attractions that arise from the elegance of building, or the beauty of situation. It stands on a swampy spot, frequently overflowed by the sea, which no precaution of the inhabitants is able to prevent; and the houses or huts are wholly constructed of mud, covered with bamboo, without either floors or pavements. The residences of the mandarins, however, which lie at a small distance from the town, are built of stone and wood, three stories high, and are adorned with painting, gilding, and piazzas. They appear to contain a considerable number of apartments; each palace being furnished with projecting wings, which are generally of variously painted wood.

Guards

Guards of both infantry and cavalry attend each mandarin, and environ his palace with their tents.

One solitary fort, consisting of a square tower, was probably meant for the defence of the place, as its situation commands the entrance of the river; but having neither ordnance or garrison, it serves rather as an ornament than a security.

The river here is of considerable breadth, but of small and unequal depth. Across its entrance runs a bank of sand. The surrounding country presents a flat expanse of a rich soil and great fertility. Curiosity, which induced vast numbers to croud the shores, during the landing of the embassy, gave us a very grand idea of the population of Mettow and its vicinity.

CHAP. IV.

*Preparations for proceeding to Peking—Chinese baking
—Meat—Description of the Junks.*

VAN Tadge-In, a mandarin of the first class, being delegated by the Emperor, to superintend the progress, and provide for the accommodation

tion of the embassy, during its continuance in China, began the exercise of his functions, by furnishing us with junks which were to convey us to Peking. The important trust with which he was invested, proved his country's opinion of his abilities to execute it; and we had every reason to confirm the favourable decision it had passed. This distinguished personage was about the middle size, robust, and finely formed. The darkness of his complexion was relieved by a set of features expressive of intelligence and feeling; and his manners were at once conciliating and correct.

On the 6th of August we received from the mandarin a quantity of beef, bread, and fruit. The beef was well flavoured, but not very fat. The bread, not being baked in the European mode, though made of excellent flour, was less agreeable to our taste. It was in fact little better than dough, being baked without an intermixture of yeast, which the Chinese are either unacquainted with, or reject its use. In shape and size, the loaves resemble a common wash-ball, divided in two. They are baked on bars ranged across an iron pan, in which is a certain quantity of water, and placed on an earthen stove. When the water begins to boil, the steam is confined by a shallow tub for a few minutes; and thus the business ends. This curious method of baking, or rather boiling, rendered

rendered it necessary for us to slice and toast the bread before we could relish it.

In the afternoon of the same day, we received a variety of meats, both roast and boiled. The roast meat appeared as if covered with an oily varnish, and tasted accordingly: the boiled was much more agreeable to our palates.

Perhaps we were a little prejudiced against Chinese cookery, from the accounts we had heard of their indifference in regard to animals killed on purpose, or by accident, or dying of disease. It seems all are equally used. The reports that had reached our ears, in this respect, were confirmed by the evidence of our eyes. Some pigs, being infected with an incurable disorder, were thrown overboard; but the frugal Chinese instantly picked them up and dressed them; and while they were enjoying their unenvied feast, appeared to laugh at the English for their fastidious delicacy. Nor is this grossness of appetite confined to those whom want may be supposed to stimulate. The higher ranks, in their domestic œconomy, appear to be governed by the same motives as their inferiors, and adopt customs at which Europeans in general would revolt.

The squadron received orders on the 7th to return to Chusan harbour, and to wait for farther instructions.

That attention to established habits, which though inimical to improvement, is a source of peace, has prevented the Chinese from making any alterations in their naval architecture for ages. Their junks are built of beach wood and bamboo, flat bottomed, and of various sizes; and nearly a fourth part as broad as they are long. On the first deck of the larger vessels, employed in the navigation of rivers, is a range of apartments, consisting of bed rooms, parlour, and kitchen. The floor from one end of the junk to the other, is full of hatches, which being lifted up by a brass ring, open a stowage below for immense quantities of stores or goods. The windows are formed of small squares of transparent paper; and the sashes may be taken out on occasion for the admission of air. A coloured curtain on the outside extends the whole length of the junk; and this is either furled or drawn, according to the pleasure or convenience of the passengers.

The main deck is laid out into chambers for the use of the crew. A gangway runs on both sides the vessel, so as to render the apartments private.

It is astonishing how little water these junks draw. Some of two or three hundred tons may be navigated with safety on the most shoally rivers. Most of them have only one mast, which, as well as the rudder, is clumsy and inelegant.

A very wise precaution is used in the navigation
of

of the rivers of China. No sooner does it become dark, but a lighted lamp is suspended from the mast's head, as the signal of approach. Thus the danger of vessels running foul of each other is prevented. Besides, these lamps being formed of transparent paper, inscribed with Chinese characters, serve to announce the name of the junk, or the rank of its passengers. Other lights likewise are distributed round the vessel at night. During the day, silken flags are displayed, which being stamped with letters, answer the purpose of notification, the same as the lamps. These lights and flags have sometimes a grand and a novel effect.

The mandarin and his suite occupied five junks, and took the lead of the procession. His Excellency the Ambassador, and the principal gentlemen, had seven junks for their accommodation. The soldiers, mechanics, and servants, brought up the rear.

CHAP. V.

*Sail for Peking—Country and Inhabitants described—
Tea-Tree—Arrive at Tyen-Sing.*

EVERY thing being ready, Lord Macartney took his leave of the principal mandarin at Mettow, on the morning of the 8th of August; and having received a very liberal supply of provisions, tea, sugar, vegetables, and fruit, together with a quantity of wood and charcoal—for mineral coal is not known here, nor did we find it was used in any part of this empire—the embassy proceeded up the river.

Words cannot express the effect the novel scene produced on our minds, as we passed through a country rich in the charms of nature and of art. Cultivation every where seemed to have exhausted its diligent resources. The fields were enriched with its toils, and presented a view of various crops, as luxuriant as fancy can conceive. Abundance of sheep and the most beautiful cattle were seen grazing here in the meadows.

The gardens, on the course of the stream, appeared equally adapted for pleasure and utility; and however much Europeans may plume themselves

selves on their superior knowledge of agriculture, gardening, and ornamental design, the Chinese, in most respects, would bear away the palm. Their taste, to our eyes, may be less chaste; but their diligence overcomes difficulties, which in most countries would appear insurmountable.

In this delightful voyage, the mandarin's guards marched by day along the banks of the river, and at night pitched their tents, where the junks lay at anchor. Both the fronts of the huts on land, and the vessels on the water, were decorated with lamps, and together formed an attractive sight.

The centinels, who kept a regular watch during the night, were furnished with a piece of hollow bamboo, which they strike with a mallet at regular intervals, to signify their vigilance and activity. This custom, the peyings, or soldiers, informed us, was universally adopted by the Chinese army.

At an early hour next morning, the gongs gave the signal for sailing. These instruments are made of brass, something resembling the cover of a large culinary vessel; and when struck with a large mallet, covered with leather, produce a sound that may be heard farther than the European trumpet or bell, in the room of which they are substituted.

With the usual supply of provisions, for the first time, we received a jar of the country wine.

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It possesses a good body; but the taste is sharp and unpleasant. In colour it resembles Lisbon wine.

Military honours are not unknown in China. In passing several populous towns, where soldiers were quartered, they were drawn up on the banks to receive the Ambassador, while crowds of spectators filled every accessible spot of view.

The uniform of a Chinese soldier deserves a description. It consists of black nankeen trowsers, over which a kind of cotton stockings are drawn. Their shoes, which are also made of cotton, are extremely clumsy, broad at the toes, and furnished with immoderately thick soles. From the top of their trowsers is suspended a purse, which contains their money. They have neither shirts nor waistcoats, but only a large black nankeen mantle with loose sleeves, turned up and fringed with red coloured cloth of the same fabric. A broad girdle confines this loose robe, ornamented in front with a kind of plate, said to be a composition of rice. A pipe, and bag for tobacco, hangs from this cincture on one side, and a fan on the other. These appendages, and a supply of tobacco, are allowed by the Emperor. They wear their swords on the left side, with the point forwards. A bow is slung under the left arm, and a quiver on their backs generally contains twelve arrows. Many, however,
carry

carry fire-arms; and though it is impossible for the Chinese to teach Europeans any improvements in the arts of destruction, in the caution they employ to prevent accidents with artillery and muskets, they might give the wisest of us a lesson in the more commendable art of preservation.

The soldiers have a tuft of hair on the back of their head, which is plaited down the back, and tied at the extremity with a ribband. The rest they shave. They cover their heads with shallow straw hats, bound under the chin, and decorated with a red plume of camel's hair. According to our ideas, little that looks like military enters into the composition of a Chinese foldier's dress.

Their colours are commonly of green silk, edged with red, and painted with characters in gold. Of these they employ a great number.

In sailing up the river, we saw numbers of rustic habitations, chiefly constructed of mud, with some few of stone. The country women, with the curiosity natural to their sex, advanced to see the procession. They seemed to walk with difficulty; having their feet and ancles bound with a red fillet to confine their growth. Their front hair is combed back on the crown of the head, and clubbed, and decorated with artificial flowers and silver pins; the hind hair is then brought up, and secured under the club. Except in regard to the decorations

tions of the head and the bandages on their feet, the dress of the Chinese women differs but little from that of the soldiers.

Our progress was by no means rapid; but we were every moment attracted by some new objects, which prevented our wish for greater expedition. In the course of one day's sailing, which could not exceed twenty-four miles, we passed such an immense number of junks, and saw such crowds of people, as would almost exceed belief did we attempt calculation. Independent of the moving scene, the river itself, spacious and meandering, was a noble object; and the diversity of its banks, and the views which occasionally opened over a rich and varied country, would have afforded a scope to the most glowing pencil.

For the first time, we saw the plantations of the tea-tree, on the 10th. This plant, so injurious to the constitution, and so captivating to the taste, which, from being originally an useless luxury, has now become a necessary in so many countries, has been well described by botanists, and a repetition here would be needless. We shall, however, observe that it is of a low size, with a narrow leaf, somewhat like myrtle. It was now the season when the tea-tree was in blossom. The blossoms are picked when young, and mixed with the tea, to which they communicate a more agreeable flavour.

Plentiful

Plentiful as tea appears to be in this province, it is not within the reach of the lower classes, as the crew of the junks were glad to receive our tea leaves, which they dried, and then boiled, to procure their favourite beverage. Tea is universally used in China without sugar; and as the natives, particularly the lower orders, frequently dry and reboil the leaves for some weeks successively, they unite œconomy with gratification; which would be salutary, if copied here.

On the morning of the 11th we approached the city of Tyen-Sing. The banks of the river here presented fields of millet and rice. The number of spectators that met us, both in vessels and by land, exceed all calculation. For nearly two miles we observed a range of salt heaps, disposed in columns, and covered with matting; but whether manufactured on the spot, or for what purpose such a prodigious quantity was collected, we were not able to ascertain.

The noise and shouts of an innumerable multitude of people attended our entrance into the city. This is a very populous and extensive place. The houses are built of brick, and are in general two stories high, covered with tiles; but the want of regularity offends the eye; and the streets are so uncommonly narrow, that not more than two persons can walk abreast.

Soon

Soon after our arrival, the Ambassador, who was received with military honours, went in full form to visit the chief mandarin. His palace is large and lofty, palisadoed in front, gilt and painted in a very fanciful and expensive form. Even the external walls are decorated with paintings; and the roof is coated with a yellow varnish of brilliant effect. Here the Ambassador and suite partook of a cold collation, at which all the dainties of the country were collected.

In honour of the distinguished visitor, a Chinese play was performed. The theatre is a square wooden structure, in the front of the mandarin's palace. The stage is surrounded with galleries, which were decorated with ribbands and filken streamers.

The representations consisted of warlike manœuvres, varied by flight of hand deceptions, and a display of personal agility, in which the performers acquitted themselves with admirable adroitness. A band of music, consisting of wind instruments, enlivened the scene. The novelty of both pleased the eye, rather than delighted the ear. The female characters were performed by eunuchs: the delicacy of the Chinese would be shocked at the public exhibition of their women.

When the Ambassador and attendants returned on board, such an immense number of people accompanied

accompanied them, in every kind of conveyance capable of floating, that accidents appeared inevitable. We were witnesses to one, where part of the deck of an old junk giving way, from the enormous pressure of spectators, consigned several persons to a watery grave.

A very liberal supply of provisions had been sent us before we embarked. Indeed, from the superabundance, we entertained the crews who navigated the junks; thus converting the hospitality of the country to the relief of the natives, for which mark of attention they testified a due sense of gratitude.

A present having been made of some parcels of silk by the mandarin Tyen-Sing, to the embassy, an officer, by the direction of the Ambassador, distributed them among his suite; but it not being possible for every one to have an equal share, it was determined, after two pieces were distributed to each of the gentlemen, the remainder should be disposed of by drawing lots, by which means every person whether mechanic, servant, musician, or foldier, had an equal chance.

The weather had been excessively hot for some days; and at an early hour on the morning of the 12th of August we were visited by a most tremendous storm of thunder, lightning,

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and rain, which is not unusual in this climate.

It was found necessary, during several hours this day, to employ men to tow the junks along. In China, numbers follow this laborious vocation, to which they are called when the wind or tide fails. A rope is fixed to the mast, and another to the head of the junk. These are of a length proportionable to the breadth of the river, and are fixed, one at each end, to a stick of about thirty inches long. This is thrown over the head and rests on the breast, forming a kind of harness. Every draughtsman is furnished with a similar apparatus, and when all are ready, the leader gives the signal to advance. The towers act in concert, and proceed with a measured step, which is regulated by a kind of musical tone, constantly repeated. The fatigue these useful drudges undergo would appear excessive to any but the Chinese; they wade through marshy banks, and stalk through muddy soil, with a perseverance that claims at once our pity and admiration.

Next day, when we received the usual supply of provisions, we set about cooking them ourselves; being perfectly disgusted with Chinese filthiness in regard to their victuals. With respect to rice, however, they deserve the praise of cleanliness. They wash it well in cold water, and drain it through

through a sieve, then throw it into boiling water, and when pulpy, take it out with a ladle, and put it into another clean vessel, where it is suffered to remain till it becomes quite white and dry. In this form it is used for bread. Indeed, boiled rice, and sometimes millet, with vegetables, fried in oil, constitute the usual food of the lower class. They eat regularly every four hours of the day, and seldom vary their humble repast. Their tables are about a foot high; on them a large vessel of rice is placed, and each person, sitting on the floor, helps himself into a small bason. The vegetables are taken up with a couple of chop-sticks, and eaten with the rice. On particular days a more genial diet is used. The usual beverage is a weak infusion of tea.

Amid the new and extraordinary things which in such rapid succession caught the view, perhaps the number of the inhabitants that every where presented themselves, was the most wonderful. It may be thought to border on the marvellous, but it is a certain fact that we could not pass fewer than four thousand junks in the course of this day.

On the 15th we sailed by the town of Chotung-poa. It commands a pleasant view, and appears to be of considerable magnitude.

Wherever the Ambassador passed he received military salutes.

Soon after leaving Cho-tung-poa we reached a tributary stream, over which were two bridges with two arches of elegant architecture. On a gentle eminence, at no great distance, stood the palace of the mandarin. It was built of stone, two stories high, and exhibited a favourable specimen of Chinese taste and design.

When we had moored for the night, the principal mandarin of Tyen-sing arrived, with a numerous retinue, to pay his respects to the Ambassador. A troop of men preceded him, who notified his approach by shouts. Then followed two men carrying large silk umbrellas, to shade the palanquin from the sun, when required; the standard-bearers succeeded; then the foot soldiers; the mandarin in his palanquin came next; and a troop of cavalry brought up the rear. In this stile, persons of distinction in China generally travel; and the higher their quality, the more numerous their attendants.

Next day was marked with no particular occurrence. The banks of the river became more diversified and picturesque; and both the eye and the mind were gratified and impressed with landscape beauty, and luxuriant vegetation.

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In the evening we took a walk along the banks of the river. The corn was now almost ripe; agriculture appeared in its best form; and copious plenty seemed to countenance and support the immense population we every where observed.

CHAP. VI.

Arrival at the City of Tong-tchew, where the Voyage ends—Funeral of Eades, &c. &c.

WE arrived at the city of Tong-tchew on the 16th of August, and here our voyage ended. This place is distant only twelve miles from Peking. Expectation was now roused, and some degree of anxiety awakened. We found an inclosure here, purposely erected, for the landing of the baggage and presents. It occupied nearly the space of an acre. Lord Macartney and the conducting mandarin went to inspect it.

A temple was allotted for the residence of the embassy, during its stay at this place; and the whole suite, of every description, received an invitation from the grand mandarin to partake of a public breakfast, which was to be provided here

next morning. Accordingly, Lord Macartney and Sir George Staunton set out in two palanquins, and were escorted to the temple by a party of Chinese soldiers. The breakfast was composed of various made dishes, meat, tea, wines, fruit, and confectionary.

Every exertion was made to land the baggage and presents with speed and safety; and such emulation was displayed in this service, that most of it was lodged in the depot before night. Two Chinese officers inspected every case and package at the gate of the inclosure, of which they appeared to take a written account, and pasted marks corresponding with their minutes on every separate article. This, we understood, was done with a view of certifying the Emperor of all that was brought into his dominions.

The temple, as it was called, appropriated for the residence of the embassy, though in fact it was the habitation of a timber merchant, hired by the Chinese government for this purpose, is about a mile distant from the city. It is a neat, low building, of one story high; and consists of several courts, which were severally occupied by the soldiers, servants, Ambassador and suite. The soldiers court was next the entrance. Beyond this was the servants quarter, opposite to which is a square building of one room, consecrated to religious worship.

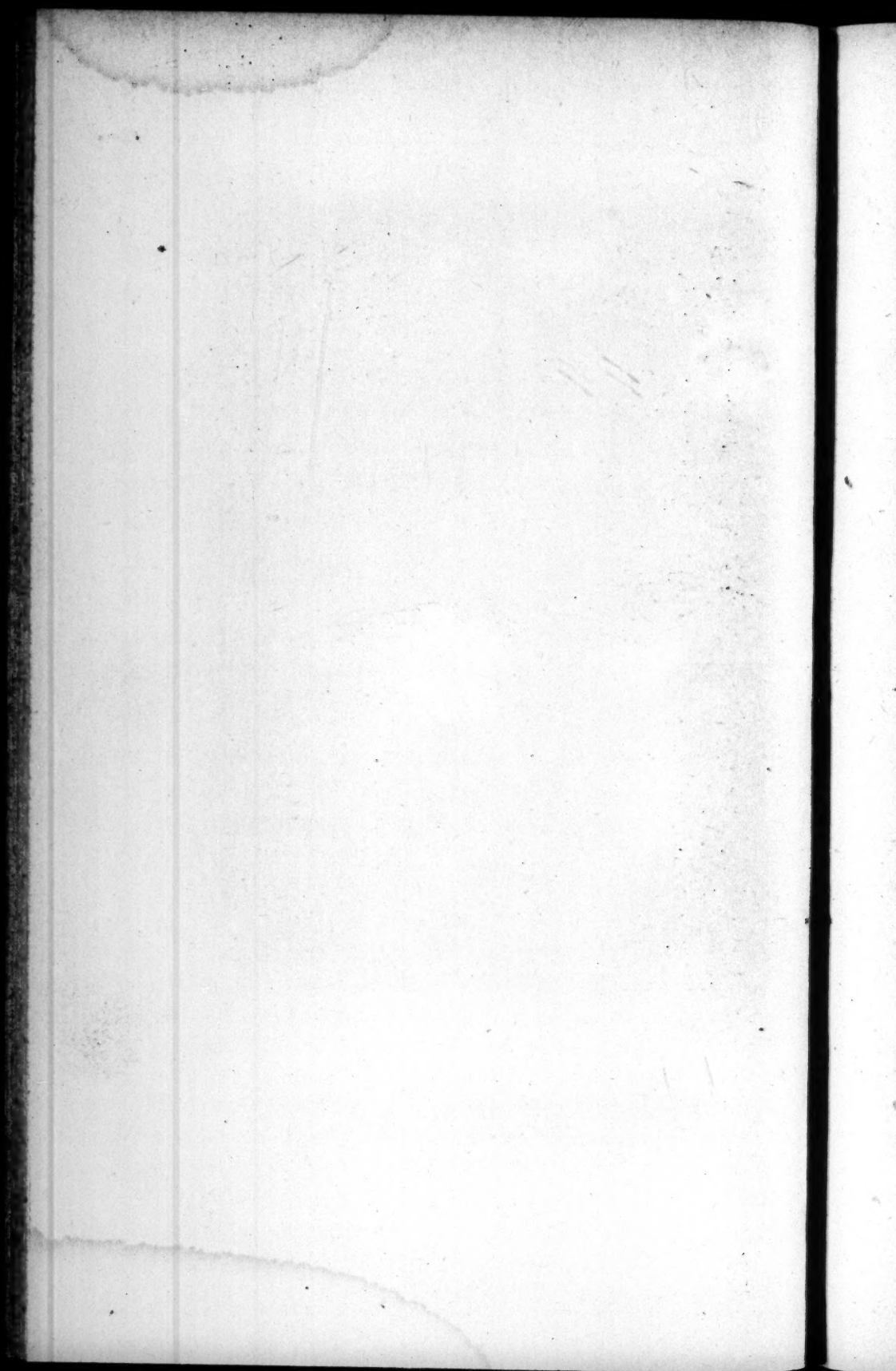
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Corbould del.

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Published by Vernor & Hood. Jan: 1798.



In the middle of this stands an altar, supporting three porcelane statues as large as life; and on each side are candlesticks, which are lighted whenever any person is paying his devotion, and regularly at morn and eve. Before the images, stands a pot full of dust, into which a number of long matches are thrust, which are likewise lighted during the celebration of worship. The devotees having finished, the candles and the matches are extinguished, and an attendant on the altar strikes a bell thrice with a mallet. All persons present then kneel before the images, inclining their heads three times, with their hands clasped, which they lift over their heads as they rise. Such is the simple ceremony of the daily worship of the Chinese, invariably observed from the humblest to the highest, from the peasant to the emperor. This worship obtains the appellation of Chin-chin-josh, or the service of God. The meanest hut has its altar and its image; nor is there a junk without those appendages. From the number of images, in places where the rites of religion are regularly performed, and the obeisances being thrice repeated, may we not discover a symbolic acknowledgment of the Christian Trinity? Truth, though obscured, is not quite obliterated even in countries reputed pagan. We see faint traces of revelation in India, and in China,

China, though wrapped up in the veil of mystery and allegory.

The court appropriated to the use of the Ambassador and suite, was handsome and spacious, decorated with lamps, gildings, and other Chinese embellishments. An hundred various dishes were served up at his Excellency's table for dinner. A number of Chinese crouded round, and seemed highly diverted with the display of European manners, so opposite to their own. Indeed Chinese servants were distributed in the different apartments, to be ready at any hour of the day, to supply the embassy with the various beverages of the country. These are chiefly tea, cold or warm.

The city of Tong-tchew is about six miles in circumference, almost square, surrounded by a high wall, to which an external ditch is added, in the most accessible spots. It has three gates, each well fortified, and may, altogether, be considered as a strong place.

The houses are almost universally of wood, of one story high, pretty with exterior decorations in the Chinese stile; but most of them are destitute of furniture. The shop is the principal room. Before this are high pillars, supporting an awning, covered with painting and gilding, and decorated with streamers. These streamers indicate the commodities

modities to be sold ; and sometimes a wooden figure is superadded, to direct to the spot.

In the form and size of the houses and shops there is very little variety ; the same plan prevails throughout the city in almost every respect. The streets indeed are of different breadths ; but all of them have a pavement on each side for the accommodation of foot passengers.

As a substitute for glass, a thin glazed paper is universally used in China : however, some of the palaces of the higher classes are furnished with silk to admit the light.

Tong-tchew seems to carry on a very extensive trade. An immense number of junks resort to it. The population is computed at nearly half a million.

The summers in this climate are very hot ; but the winters are in proportion severe, as appears by ice of vast thickness being preserved to cool the drink during the hot months. In China, ice is esteemed a peculiar luxury.

The shortness of our stay, and the ignorance of the language, rendered it extremely difficult to obtain any correct idea of the nature of the municipal government. It was, however, understood that civil causes were decided by a bench of the lower mandarins, but their judgment was subject to the review

view of the principal mandarin, and even an appeal lay from him to the viceroy of the province.

The ultimate fate of capital offenders depends on the Emperor alone; but death is seldom inflicted in China. Persons far advanced in years, confessed they had never seen or known a capital execution take place in their province. The mild manners, the sober virtues, of the Chinese in general, render punishments neither frequent nor severe. An exact police, however, is kept up, and delinquencies are expiated with promptitude and unerring certainty, if detected. Thus the hopes of pardon does not inspire a vicious confidence; and the extreme difficulty of preventing detection, operates as a powerful dissuasive from crime. The Chinese, however, seem to enjoy as much liberty of action as is reconcileable to the well-being of society; and peace and contentment bless their lives.

The curiosity of the people was very troublesome during our excursion round the city. We were frequently obliged to seek an asylum in the shops till the gazing multitude had dispersed.

The second day after our arrival, the ordnance and stores were examined, and a trial made of the guns in the presence of the Ambassador. It was found they answered perfectly well.

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In the evening his Excellency was visited by the chief mandarin, accompanied by Van-Tadge-In. A band of music performed during his stay, with which the visitors seemed vastly pleased.

We had hither escaped without a death, or any very serious illness, in the embassy since we entered China; but this evening we lost Mr. Eades, one of the mechanics, by a violent flux. To impress the natives with a favourable idea of the solemnities of our funerals, Lord Macartney was pleased to direct that the deceased should be interred with military honours. In China, coffins are kept ready made. They are chiefly of the same size for all grown persons; are strong and very heavy; in shape somewhat like a flat-bottomed boat. The lid is secured with a cord instead of nails. Having procured one of these receptacles of mortality, we placed the corpse in it with all possible decency. Next morning, orders were issued for the troops to appear with their side-arms, except a serjeant and six privates, who were appointed to fire a volley over the grave; and as there was no clergyman attached to the embassy, an attendant on his Lordship was called on to officiate on this mournful occasion.

The procession, having been previously marshalled, proceeded slowly to the burying-ground, about a quarter of a mile's distance from the Ambassador's residence. An immense concourse of spectators

spectators were allured by the novelty of the scene to accompany us. Perhaps the most splendid exhibition would not have procured a larger assembly. The body was committed to the ground with due solemnity ; and the procession returned in the same order as it went.

In this country we observed that the graves were very shallow. They have memorials of marble and stone as with us, charged with inscriptions. Some of the monuments here exhibited traces of no ordinary sculpture. This receptacle of dust was of very considerable extent, but without walls. Except in the vicinity of large towns, there are no public burial grounds: in the country, the deceased repose within the precincts where they lived.

Several mandarins paid a visit of respect to the Ambassador, and notified that the day following was appointed for the embassy's departure to Peking.

CHAP. VII.

Leave Tong-tchew—Arrive at Pekin—Description of that City—Are conducted to one of the Emperor's Palaces.

AT a very early hour, on the morning of the 21st of August, the signal was given by beat of drum, to prepare for our departure. The soldiers were first marched off, and then the servants; for both of whom covered waggons had been provided. The gentlemen of the suite followed in light carts, and Lord Macartney, Sir George Staunton, and the interpreter, had each a palanquin. In point of equipage and appearance, this procession was mean indeed; it sunk the diplomatic dignity of a great and powerful nation.

After leaving Tong-tchew, we entered a fine champaign country, through which we travelled on a road of uncommon breadth and beauty. A foot pavement, about six yards wide, occupied the centre, and on each side several carriages had room to run abreast. Roads of a similar description conduct to the capital from the principal towns of the empire; and these are kept in perfect repair by labourers regularly disposed, and constantly employed.

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We reached the town of Kiyeng-Foo by seven in the morning. This is a large and populous place, and exhibits the appearance of commercial opulence. As it was most probably a matter of general notoriety, when we were to enter Peking, the concourse of people who filled every accessible spot of view, and even crowded on us, notwithstanding all the exertions of the mandarins, considerably impeded our progress, and exceeded what we had hitherto seen of Chinese population. Yet to our mortification we observed, that our appearance excited rather ridicule than respect; and bursts of laughter accompanied every transient sight of us from our contemptible vehicles.

We stopped nearly an hour at Kiyeng-Foo, and received some refreshments of meats, tea and fruits. Van-Tadge-In likewise ordered some joau, an unpleasant Chinese wine, to be distributed to the attendants of the embassy. This he did from the benevolent motive of enabling them to resist the calls of appetite till another opportunity offered of gratifying them, which at present could not be ascertained. Of the face of the country between this town and Peking, it is impossible to speak. Myriads of people intercepted our view.

We passed beneath several beautiful triumphal arches on entering the suburbs of the metropolis.

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The magnificence they displayed, served only for a contrast to the meanness of our appearance.

The houses in the suburbs are built of wood, two stories high, variously painted in front. The shops make a very respectable appearance. The streets are spacious; and on this occasion they were lined with soldiers, without whose assistance it would have been impossible for the cavalcade to have advanced.

At two in the afternoon we reached the gates of the imperial city of Peking, or Pit-chin, as pronounced by the natives. The walls inclose a circumference of twelve leagues. In the centre of each angle is a grand gate or entrance, and a lesser one at each corner of the ramparts. They are all of strong stone arch work, and fortified by a tower of seven stories, rising over each. The gates indeed are double: the inner is of the same form as the first, except that it has no tower; and between them are barracks for soldiers. Ordnance and troops are stationed at every gate; and though the olive branch of peace blesses Peking with almost a perpetual shade, the arts of defence and of prudent caution are neither neglected nor unknown. At ten every night the gates are shut, and till dawn of day all communication is suspended between the city and the suburbs. During that space, a special

order from the principal mandarin of the city is absolutely necessary to procure ingress or egress.

The walls are of great height, and of massy thickness; the foundation is of stone, but the superstructure is wholly of brick. Outworks and batteries at short intervals encrease the strength of the walls, and forts are very frequent, but except at the gates there are neither cannons nor guards. His imperial majesty generally resides here from October to April; and during that period, soldiers patrol the walls every night.

On the most moderate computation, from the south gate to the east gate is a space of ten miles. This was our route through Pekin; and every step presented some new object to arrest our attention. The streets are spacious, clean and commodious, well paved, and well regulated. An exact police is kept up; and as every public functionary, from the highest to the lowest, is attentive to the discharge of his duty, order, neatness and activity are every where perceptible. Large bodies of scavengers are employed in separate districts in removing every species of filth; and another class of men sprinkle the streets, to prevent the dust from incommoding passengers, or injuring the gaudy wares and elegant manufactures which every shop presents for sale.

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In the capital, and indeed in almost every town in China, the pride of architectural elegance and embellishment seems to be chiefly displayed in the shops. The tradesmen wisely lay out the greatest expence in that apartment which brings them in the most profit; hence the shops in general are magnificent, while their domestic accommodations are neither numerous nor great. The houses here are low, but highly embellished in front, with galleries, paintings and golden characters. Fine pillars are erected at the doors of the shops, supporting a flag, which indicates the name and profession of the master of the house. These flags, with the intermixture of gilding, sculpture, and valuable commodities which attract the eye every moment, give an idea of splendor, which fancy can scarcely enlarge.

The butchers shops appear to be supplied with excellent meat. On entering one of them, to satisfy our curiosity in regard to the pieces of meat, and the mode of cutting it up, which last is nearly the same as our own, we observed an earthen stove with a gridiron. The butcher construing our signs into a want of meat, began cutting off and broiling small slices, which he continued to supply us with till we were satisfied. Perhaps we might consume about a pound; and on producing a string of caxee, the only coin allowed to be cur-

rent in China, he took off one conderon, or ten, as the price of his meat. In this manner I saw numbers feasting on beef and mutton.

In Pekin, as in every populous place in the world, numbers must be engaged in humble though useful trades, in the streets. Many thousands here derive their livelihood from this source. These itinerant tradesmen, according to the nature of their business, either bear baskets over their shoulders, or carry a kind of pack. Street barbers are very numerous. These carry with them the implements of their trade, together with a chair, a small stove, and a water bason. Their customers sit down in the street, where the operation is performed with dispatch, and a mace is the general compliment to the operator. A pair of large steel tweezers, snapped with force gives the signal that the barber is at hand; and in a country where it is impossible that any person can entirely shave himself, if he complies with the established mode, this must be a lucrative trade.

Street auctioneers, apparently possessed of all the low eloquence and the vociferous exertions of that craft, present themselves frequently on a kind of platform.

The principal streets being of enormous length, are subdivided by arched gateways, under each of which the name of the partial street is written in
gilt

gilt characters. These arches continually appearing, serve as central objects for the eye to repose on. The cross streets are terminated by small latticed gates, shut during the night; while the principal ones are incessantly guarded by soldiers, who are armed with swords and whips, to quell any disturbance, or to correct slighter irregularities.

We have before observed, that the chief care and expence is laid out on the shops, and except in the variety of their embellishments, an uniformity prevails in the height and extent of their houses. Few private buildings are more than one story high, and these are chiefly of wood. The imperial palace, however, the houses of the mandarins, and the pagodas, are distinguished by their superior elevation, as well as their magnificence.

Palanquins are the fashionable vehicles of the great, while covered carts, drawn by a horse or a mule, serve for the inferior classes.

An opinion has prevailed in Europe, that the Chinese women live secluded from view. The fact is otherwise: they frequently present themselves from the galleries in front of their houses; and amid the immense concourse that were assembled to view our procession, perhaps there were more women in proportion than we should have seen in any principal town of Europe.

The females of Peking in general possess delicate features,

features, the effects of which they heighten by cosmetics. They also apply vermillion to the middle of their lips, which certainly is not an unattractive addition to their beauty. Their eyes are small, but very expressive; and their brilliance is contrasted by a peak of black velvet or silk, set with stones, which depends from the forehead to the insertion of the nose. Their feet appear to be of the natural size. In fact, the women seem to enjoy as much liberty as is consistent with the delicacy of the sex; nor is jealousy, as far as we could judge, a predominant passion among the men. On observing a crowd of women, we addressed them with the word *Chou-au*, or beautiful, on which they gathered round us with an air of modest politeness, examined the make and texture of our clothes, and appeared to be vastly entertained. They did not decline a gentle shake of the hand, on one of our party taking leave; nor did the men who were present seem dissatisfied with our attention or their condescension.

In our way through the city, we met a funeral procession. The coffin was covered by a rich canopy, with silk curtains, highly ornamented, and hung with escutcheons. It was placed on a large bier, and had a great number of men to support it, who advanced with a slow and solemn step. A band of music followed, playing a kind of dirge; and

and after them came the friends and relations of the deceased, in dresses of black and white.

Passing the eastern suburbs, we again entered a rich and beautiful country, and soon arrived at Yeumenmanyemen, one of the Emperor's palaces, distant about five miles from the city. Here we found rather a scanty and indifferent refreshment; but being much fatigued, the idea of rest was our most acceptable gratification.

CHAP. VIII.

Description of the Palace of Yeumenmanyemen—Return to Pekin—Description of the Viceroy of Canton's Palace.

THIS palace is low, both in situation and building. We entered it by a common stone gateway, guarded by soldiers; beyond this is a kind of parade, in the centre of which is a small lodge for the accommodation of the mandarins in waiting. The body of the palace is divided into two square courts, equally destitute of elegance and convenience; the windows of the apartments are formed of lattice, covered with glazed and painted paper;

paper; and throughout the whole range there was no other furniture than a few ordinary tables and chairs. Not a bed or bedstead was any where to be seen. Indeed the natives sleep on a kind of mattrass, and cover themselves with a cushion of stuffed and quilted cotton. They undress only partially, when they retire to rest, and encrease the number of their coverings according to the severity of the season. Instead of bedsteads, they use a large wooden bench, raised about two feet from the ground, and bottomed with bamboos or wicker work. On one of these several persons may spread their mattresses.

Every thing about this residence evinced that it had been long deserted or neglected; and indeed a more unpromising situation for a royal residence could no where be found. The situation was naturally swampy, and two ponds of stagnant water communicated their mephitic odours to every apartment. Some small grass fields belong to the place; but these too were an exception to the general cultivated appearance of the country. In short, centipedes, scorpions, and musketos, infested every part of this palace; and for such inhabitants it was solely adapted.

Yet, disagreeable as the internal state of our residence was, we were cut off from all external communication. Soldiers and mandarins guarded every

every avenue; and the embassy could be considered in no other light than as prisoners of state.

His Excellency the Ambassador justly conceiving a disgust at a situation so unfavourable to health or accommodation, as well as derogatory to his personal dignity and the honour of his country, made a serious remonstrance on the occasion. His application was at last productive of a change of residence; it was not, however, till the 26th that we were suffered to quit this dreary abode.

During this interval several unpleasant altercations took place between the members of the embassy and the soldiers on guard. The former could ill brook the disgraceful restraints laid on them by confinement within the walls of their prison; and the latter pertinaciously opposed every attempt at greater liberty. These fracas were not unfrequent, and perhaps were productive of future ill consequences to the interests of the mission. Conciliatory measures by means of negociation would certainly have been preferable to menaces which could not be carried into effect, and altercations with those, who in the punctual discharge of the duty imposed on them, were rather objects of respect than of enmity and opposition.

So much pleasure did every person attached to the embassy feel, at the prospect of leaving this wretched place, that every necessary preparation was made
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for the purpose in the shortest possible space of time. Some of the presents and the more delicate articles of art or manufacture were left here, lest they should be injured by frequent removal.

The procession set out on its return to Pekin with the same accommodations as it came; and the arrangements having been made more perfectly than before, we arrived without any accident or confusion, at the north gate of Pekin about one in the afternoon of the 26th of August. This was the counter-gate to what we had entered in our former procession through Pekin, and presented new views of streets and buildings. A pagoda attracted our notice in our progress, being the first we had found an opportunity of observing. It stands in the centre of a beautiful garden; is square, stone built, and gradually diminishes from the bottom till it terminates in a sphere. It rises to the height of seven stories, and has a gallery near the top, encompassed by a rail.

As it is probable our return was unexpected, we passed with facility through the streets, and soon arrived at a princely palace, belonging to the Viceroy of Canton, who it seems was a state prisoner here for some misconduct in office. This palace consists of twelve large and six smaller courts: it is built of a grey coloured brick, of most elegant workmanship, but except two detached edifices,

edifices, which were occupied by Lord Macartney and the secretary to the embassy, the palace was only one story high, though this was of unusual elevation. Every thing without and within convinced us we now lodged in a palace: the embellishments were in the first stile of Chinese taste; and in regard to the beauty of colours and the brilliant effect of house painting, no nation can enter into competition with this. The glossy effect of japan is every where perceptible, without the intervention of varnish; for we were convinced that the beauty produced arose from some ingredients in the original composition.

The apartments were very spacious, and hung with the most elegant paper, enriched with gilding. Lord Macartney's residence was singularly superb, and moreover had an elegant private theatre belonging to it; and in a word, all ranks and descriptions were accommodated in a stile that gave satisfaction, and deserved acknowledgment. Here, however, the furniture was neither valuable nor in any quantity. Chairs and tables, a few platforms, covered with bamboo matting and carpets, were the only moveables in a palace whose decorations, both external and internal, would not have disgraced the residence of the Emperor himself.

Under the floor, in each of the principal apartments,

ment, is a stove, with a circular tube, which conveys warm air to every part of the room above. We saw no chimnies in this country; and understood that stoves supplied with charcoal were the universal custom.

The supplies for the table were in the best stile of Chinese living; which consists more of stews and hashes than solid joints. In this respect, however, we had no reason to complain; but the same vigilance was employed to keep us within the limits of our residence as ever; and on no pretence could we pass the gates, or even scale the walls, which were constantly guarded by a military force.

We were told that the palace in which we were confined, was built by the Viceroy of Canton chiefly from the fruits of his exactions on the English, during his continuance in office, at the expence of near one hundred thousand pounds sterling. Thus with impartial justice the wealth of our country, unjustly extorted, was made subservient to our temporary comforts.

Though we wished that our continuance in this place might be of no long duration, as it was impossible to make any progress in the grand object of our mission till we had an interview with the Emperor, yet every arrangement was made to add to the dignity of the embassy, or promote its convenience.

nience. Having settled this business, we waited with anxious expectation the return of a mandarin, who had been dispatched to learn his Imperial Majesty's pleasure, whether we should proceed to Tartary, where he was then resident, or wait till the period of his usual return to Peking.

Among the mandarins who paid their respects to the Ambassador, on his taking up his residence here, were several natives of France, formerly of the order of Jesus, who being prohibited from the promulgation of their religious tenets, had, on account of their learning, been promoted to civil rank in this country, and had assumed its dress and manners. These gave Lord Macartney hopes of a favourable issue to the important embassy he conducted: but a Frenchman, though naturalized in England or China, will be a Frenchman still—the interests of his country, next to his private advantage, will be the paramount obligation.

CHAP. IX.

Departure from Peking to the Emperor's Palace in Tartary—Description of the Wall which separates the latter from China, &c. &c.

ON the morning of the 28th of August, the conducting mandarin came to acquaint the Ambassador that it was his Imperial Majesty's pleasure to receive him in Tartary.

A new arrangement immediately took place. The principal gentlemen belonging to the embassy were selected to accompany his Excellency into Tartary; several of the scientific gentlemen, mechanics, and sick, were to remain in charge of the baggage, and presents.

The guards, musicians, and servants, received orders to hold themselves in readiness, with only indispensable necessaries; and even the gentlemen of the suite were to be as little incumbered as possible. They were to carry with them only the uniform of the embassy and a common suit of cloaths: the musicians and servants were to be dressed out in a suit of state liveries, which, on being unpacked, it was evident that this was not their first appearance in public; several of the dresses bearing the names of their former wearers,

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and from some circumstances that we discovered, had been made up for the servants of some former Ambassador. But whether they were of diplomatic origin, or derived their existence from a meaner cause, is of little importance to the reader. With these habiliments, such as they were, every man fitted himself out in the best manner he could, though there was a general want of suitable small cloaths; and had the party appeared as ridiculous to the Chinese as they did to one another, they might have supposed we wished to acquire money by an exhibition, not to add dignity to an embassy.

The Ambassador and Sir George Staunton were to travel in an old chaise belonging to the latter, which on being unpacked, had none of that gaudy appearance which distinguished the works of art in this country; and some of them did not hesitate to express their disapprobation of its external appearance.

Such of the suite as preferred riding on horseback were to be accommodated on giving in their names; and carts were to be provided for the rest.

The baggage and presents which were to accompany us having been previously sent off, the Ambassador's carriage was to be driven by a corporal of infantry, who fortunately had once been

a postillion, and a light horseman, who was to act as his assistant. A man who has learned two trades is frequently useful to himself and to others: this humble corporal was the only man who could have headed the Ambassador. He and his assistant were permitted to exercise the horses in the chaise for a short time through the streets of Peking, under a guard of mandarins and soldiers; and such crowds assembled to see this extraordinary spectacle, that authority was absolutely necessary to restrain the impertinent trespasses of curiosity. A number of horses having been already brought to the palace, and the riders having made a selection, very early in the morning of September 2, we began our march, but meeting with frequent interruption, it was some time before we could pass the city gate. This being effected, we soon drove through the suburbs, and entered a rich and beautiful country by a road of great width, but without any central pavement. After travelling about six miles we reached the village of Ching-i-ho, where we were allowed our morning refreshments. In our route we passed a great number of populous villages; and took up our first night's lodging at one of the Emperor's palaces, named Nan-shighee. Our benevolent conductor, Van-Tadge-In, seemed to redouble his activity as we approached the

the imperial presence. We were now furnished every day with the best accommodations, and received an allowance of samtchoo and Chinese wine; the former is a spirit distilled from rice and millet, and may deserve the appellation of Chinese gin.

From Pekin to Jehol, whither we were bound, the distance is one hundred and sixty miles, which was divided into seven days' journies, that we might have the advantage of sleeping in an imperial residence every night. This flattering mark of distinction is the highest it seems that can be paid, and is never conferred even on the first mandarins. The palace where we passed the first night had but little to demand attention, either in its external appearance or its internal decorations. It was environed by a spacious garden; but to this we were denied access.

We resumed our journey at four next morning, and took our first refreshment at the town of Wheazon, a place of some consequence. From thence we proceeded through dusty roads, beneath a burning sun, till we reached the palace of Chan-Chin, where we halted for the night. This is a spacious structure, covering a great extent of ground, and is adorned with gardens and plantations. The surrounding country is enclosed; and in point of fertility is equal to any we had seen.

It fed immense herds of cattle. The sheep here are small, but very fat; they have a thick short tail weighing several pounds.

As we proceeded on our journey the next morning, the distant country assumed a mountainous aspect; fertility was sensibly diminished, and the villages became more thin. About noon we saw the city of Caungchumfoa. It seems to be a large place, and is walled in the manner of Peking.

We met nothing worth remark in this day's march, except about two hundred camels and dromedaries, carrying wood and charcoal, entirely under the direction of one man. The docility of these animals, and their various useful qualities are too well known to be enumerated.

The palace of Caungchumfoa received us at an early hour of the afternoon, after the most fatiguing and disagreeable journey we had hitherto experienced. The palace itself has little to distinguish it from those we already occupied, and the treatment which the Ambassador and his attendants received, corresponded in every respect with what they had undergone before, in their journey to and from Peking. It is almost unnecessary to say, that however unfavourable appearances might be, most of us gladly accepted of whatever was prepared for our refreshment; and it will be doubted by none, that nothing gave us greater

greater satisfaction than when our conductor informed us that we might retire to the different apartments allotted for our repose.

Very early the next morning we were summoned together, and soon after departed.

The roads now became indifferent, and the country displayed a mountainous appearance. At a small distance from Waung-chanyeng, we passed a prodigious arch, which united two hills, with a parapet of masonry strength on both sides. The farther hill is crowned with a fort, whose ramparts stretch to to a very great distance. Beneath this fort is a ponderous arch-way conducting down the hill, so steep as to render travelling dangerous. In a romantic valley, at the bottom, appears the town of Waung-chanyeng. It is irregularly built, about a mile in length, and displays a considerable share of commerce and opulence. At the extremity of this town a temporary triumphal arch was erected to the honour of the embassy, finely ornamented with silk streamers. Here the Ambassador received a salute from some guns, and passed between a double line of soldiers, who displayed a martial appearance and military parade beyond what we had hitherto witnessed in China. They were regularly drawn up in companies, and each regiment was distinguished

guished by a different dress. They all wore a kind of coat of mail; and had their head and shoulders covered with steel helmets. Their armour was matchlocks, sabres, spears, lances, and bows and arrows, together with some weapons of which we knew not the appropriate name. Almost every division varied in its armour as well as its dress.

We now approached one of the wonders of the world, the wall that separates China from Tartary, the most stupendous work ever produced by man. In the vicinity are cantonments for an army of considerable magnitude; at the extremity of which is a massy gateway of stone, defended by three iron doors, which guard the pass between countries formerly distinct. This wall, the pride of human labour, is supposed to be upwards of twelve hundred miles in length: its height varies according to the circumstances of the surface. Where one of us contrived to get to the top, it was upwards of thirty feet high, and about twenty-four broad. The foundation is laid on large square stones; the superstructure is brick; the centre is a kind of mortar, covered with flagstones. A parapet of no ordinary strength runs on each side of an embattled wall.

If we consider that this immense fabric crosses
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the widest rivers, on arches of proportionate size, or in the same form connects mountains together, occasionally ascending the highest hills, or descending into the deepest vales, the most active powers of imagination will be required to realize this effort of man! In every situation, however, the passage along it is easy and uninterrupted; and it serves as a military way from one extremity of the kingdom to the other. At proper intervals there are strong towers placed, from whence signals are repeated, and any alarm may be communicated to the most distant parts of the empire with the expedition of the telegraph.

But man and all his works are doomed to decay. Time has already fixed on this celebrated monument of labour; and as it is now no longer necessary for security or defence, since the nations on both sides acknowledge one sovereign, it is more than probable, that future travellers, in some remote age—for it will exist for ages still—may describe its ruins, and pause while they contemplate the instability of sublunary grandeur. Indeed, in some places fragments have already tumbled down, and others menace the plains they once defended.

From the best accounts we could receive, this wall has been built full two thousand years; nor

nor can its traces be removed but with the consummation of all things.

The country on the other side assumed a new appearance; even the climate was changed. Instead of cultivated champain, the abodes of wealth, and the bustle of commerce, we now encountered barren wastes, where art has not yet displayed her magic powers. However, the lover of nature would prefer this scene. The grand, the sublime, in all their picturesque forms, enchanted the eye.

About seven miles from the great wall we came to mountain, which exhibited an additional proof of the indefatigable labours of the Chinese in works of public utility. A road, thirty feet wide, is cut through the solid rock; and to lessen the declivity, it is sunk no less than an hundred feet from the summit of the mountain. Yet still the ascent has a tremendous appearance; and without this vast labour, it could not have been surmounted by man.

At a moderate distance, on the other side of this steep mountain, stands the palace of Chaung-Shanuve. It consists, like the rest, of a number of courts, surrounded by a high wall. In the palaces, at least in this country, picturesque beauty is either unknown or disregarded. No
distant

distant prospects glad the eye: Nature, though frequently enchanting, is excluded from the sight.

Here a considerable number of the Emperor's ladies are lodged, guarded by eunuchs. Our apartments of course were distinct; but we saw several of them peeping over the partition that separated their apartments from ours. A few trusty mandarins have the superintendence of this *seraglio*. Extensive gardens environ the spot.

From Chaung-Shanuve the road takes the character of the country, which was every where broken and mountainous. Yet sterile as it now appeared, this evidently did not proceed from any want of activity from the natives. Every spot capable of cultivation was covered with corn; and in one place we saw several patches of tillage where the declivity seemed to be wholly inaccessible. This excited our admiration; but judge our surprize when we observed a peasant labouring on one of them, where we at first could not conceive how he was capable of standing. This poor man, whose hut was erected at the bottom of the precipice, let himself down from its top by a cord tied round his middle. Depending on the strength of this he laboured for his daily fare, amid continual danger; a proof at once of Chinese industry and resolution.

The wise policy of the Chinese government is

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in nothing more perceptible than in its receiving the greatest part of the taxes necessarily imposed in the produce of the country. This serves as a spur to the exertions of both body and mind. The landlord also is paid his rent in the produce of his farms; and the farmer again pays his labourers by an allotment of small portions of land, from whence industry, with a little occasional encouragement, may derive a comfortable subsistence. The only real wealth of nations, is agriculture, which is here perfectly understood. A regular chain is established between all ranks for its encouragement; and the artificial and unnatural medium of money, the source of wretchedness and of crimes, is only employed as the cement, not as the materials, of the building.

Before noon we arrived at the palace of Callachottueng, where we spent the remainder of the day. This palace stands between two lofty hills; it appears of more modern erection; but in stile and form resembles those we had already passed.

Being now near the termination of our journey, the Ambassador gave orders to practise the procession and ceremonies with which we were to appear before the imperial court. His Excellency was pleased to approve of the rehearsal; during the performance of which the band played the favourite march, known by the appellation of

of the Duke of York's: perhaps its notes may never again echo through the courts of a Chinese palace.

CHAP. XI.

Arrive at Fohol—First Presentation to the Emperor—who sends Presents to the Ambassador—Audience of leave—Object of the Embassy defeated.

ON the next morning, being the 7th of September, we continued our route over a hilly country, where the air was piercingly cold. We passed several well-peopled villages; but neither the country nor the people were the same as on the other side of the Chinese wall.

Early in the afternoon we reached the palace of Callachotreshangfu, in extent and form equal to any we had lately seen; but we found it tenanted only by squirrels which bounded round the courts and haunted the apartments.

Next morning we arrived at one of the Emperor's pagodas, where we found an abundant supply of provisions. Here we made a short stay to arrange our dress and equipage.

Next we came to the village of Queangcho, within a mile of Jehol, the imperial residence. Here we were marshalled, and proceeded amid an immense concourse of spectators, with all the parade that circumstances would allow. The soldiers of the royal artillery led the way—the light-horse and infantry succeeded—Ambassador's servants two and two—couriers—mechanics two and two—musicians two and two—the gentlemen of the suite two and two—Sir George Staunton, in a palanquin—the Ambassador and Mr. Staunton closed the cavalcade in the post-chaise, behind which stood a black boy in a turban.

The military made a most respectable shew; and the gentlemen of the suite, it may be reasonably supposed, were not forgetful of their dignity, and strove to support it by every external display; but the generality were a motley groupe, without even the advantage of a tolerable uniformity in dress or appearance. The whole certainly could not convey any extraordinary ideas of the splendor or power of the country from which we came. The Chinese might possibly be amused with the novelty of the scene, but they could not be impressed with its grandeur.

Proceeding with a slow pace, in this state we reached Jehol about ten in the morning, and drew up before the palace provided for the reception

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tion of the embassy. The British military formed a line for the Ambassador as he passed; but not a mandarin was in waiting to receive him; and we took possession of the palace without the welcome of an address.

It was indeed given out that the Grand Choulai, or Minister of State, would meet the Ambassador, and escort him into Jehol; and after our arrival, we were kept for some hours in anxious expectation of receiving this honour; but at last dinner being served up, put an end to our hopes of seeing him for the day.

The palace we now inhabited is situated on the declivity of a hill. We entered it by a wooden gateway, which conducts to a large court. Each side of this court has a long gallery, supported by wooden pillars, and roofed with black glossy tiles. That on the left was converted into a kitchen, the other served for the soldiers to exercise in. At the upper end was another gallery of more elegance, from which a door opens into a farther court, the principal apartments of which were appropriated for the use of the Ambassador and Sir George Staunton, the rest for the military gentlemen attached to them: a third court was occupied by the gentlemen of the suite, the musicians, servants, and mechanics. The whole fabric is sur-

rounded by a high wall; but owing to the declivity of the situation, the view was not wholly confined.

Such was our situation at Jehol; we had plenty within our walls, but no one had liberty of egress.

The second day after our arrival, the Ambassador received a visit from a mandarin, with a numerous retinue. He remained nearly an hour in conference with his Excellency and Sir George Staunton. During his stay, his attendants amused themselves in examining the dress of the English servants; and on rubbing the lace on their cloaths with a stone, to ascertain its quality, smiled when they found it less valuable than brilliant.

What passed at this conference could not be generally known; but a spirit of conjecture was conjured up among the attendants on the embassy, and the presages they formed were by no means favourable.

Instead of that profusion which had hitherto crowned our board, the lower classes in the embassy found scarcely enough at dinner this day to satisfy one half of them. They had, however, been previously instructed, though for what reason we knew not, that if their provisions should be defective in quantity or in quality, they were to intimate the grievance to his Excellency alone, and
leave

leave them untouched. An Englishman cannot easily be reconciled to confinement, and much less to famine. We could perceive something too of a meditated disrespect, and of course felt some alarm. According to our instructions the meat was left untouched; but his Excellency having remonstrated to the mandarin by means of his interpreter, in a few minutes every table was served with hot dishes, in the usual variety and profusion. Why this entertainment, which must have been nearly ready, was thus withheld, and so speedily produced, served as an enigma to exercise our ingenuity, but which we could never solve. Indeed no other ideas could possibly be entertained of it, than that of an effort of Chinese ingenuity to try the temper of Englishmen, which but for the prudent steps taken by the Ambassador, might have been productive of much mischief to the undertaking.

Next day, the presents brought from Peking were unpacked; they consisted of a great number of pieces of coarse cloth, principally black and blue, two telescopes, two air-guns, two richly mounted fowling-pieces, two pair of saddle pistols, two boxes of Irish tabbiers, two large boxes of British carpeting, and two most elegant saddles with furniture complete. Centinels were placed to
guard

guard these specimens of British art and manufacture, till the imperial pleasure respecting them should be known, which was afterwards notified by the attendant mandarin, with as much civility as could be expected from the supposed greatness of his office.

A mandarin of the first order, on the 12th of September, came to acquaint the Ambassador, that his Imperial Majesty would give him an audience on the 14th. This intelligence diffused hope and spirits through the whole embassy.

Orders were issued that the suite should be ready on the morning of the day appointed, to accompany his Excellency to the imperial palace. The attendants were to appear in their best liveries; and the soldiers and servants, after having escorted the Ambassador, were to return immediately to their quarters; his Excellency informing them, that he had reason to hope the restrictions imposed on them, which were so irksome to all, would in a few days be removed, by his endeavours.

His Excellency was splendidly dressed, in mulberry velvet, with his diamond star and ribband, and over the whole he wore the full habit of the order of the Bath. Sir George Staunton was in a full court dress, over which he wore the gown
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and hood of a doctor of laws, with the academical cap.

From the darkness of the morning, a considerable confusion arose in the intended order of the cavalcade; but as parade is useless when no one can see it, the failure was of little consequence.

As early as five in the morning, the Ambassador alighted from his palanquin, amid an immense number of the populace. Sir George and Mr. Staunton supported his train.

In our return, being now day light, we had a view of the city. It is large and populous; but very irregularly built. The houses are low, and chiefly of wood. Except in the quarter contiguous to the imperial palace, none of the streets are paved.

The principal support of this place seems to be derived from the Emperor's partiality for it. No river connects it with remote situations: the splendid expence of a court, however, renders it rich and busy. The surrounding country, though not comparable to China, is in the best state of Tartary cultivation.

His Excellency's visit, being merely a matter of form and presentation, did not engage him long. He returned before noon. The Emperor, it is said, received the credentials with all the dignity

nity of form. He appeared to be vastly struck with the manners and abilities of Mr. Staunton, to whom he presented, with his own hands, a beautiful fan, and some embroidered purses.

Soon after the Ambassador's return, a number of valuable presents were received from court, consisting of velvets, silks, and purses, and some of the finest tea of the country, made up into solid cakes of about five pounds each. Except such as were addressed for their Britannic Majesties, these presents were proportionably divided among the gentlemen of the suite.

Next morning, the Ambassador, attended only by his suite, paid a second visit to the Emperor, in order, as we understood, to attempt to open the wished for negociation. On this occasion he stopped several hours. The interpreter gave a very favourable report of the aspect of the negociation, as far as it had advanced; and our hopes for its success seemed to derive some confirmation from a second cargo of presents, consisting of silks as before, Chinese lamps, and valuable porcelain; to these were added a number of calibash boxes of the most exquisite fabric. A distribution was made as before; and mirth and festivity, arising from sanguine hopes of success, crowned the evening of the day.

Several

Several mandarins visited the Ambassador on the 16th of September, and invited him and the whole embassy to attend the anniversary of the Emperor's birth-day at court, on the morrow.

Accordingly, his Excellency set out very early in the morning, and the whole cavalcade reached the imperial palace about four o'clock. This palace commands an elevated situation and extensive views: it contains a numerous range of courts, none of which, however, appear very magnificent, though some of them are highly decorated with painting and gilding. The gardens surround it for several miles; these are bounded by a wall thirty feet high. In the front of the palace is a fine lawn, with a lake in the centre.

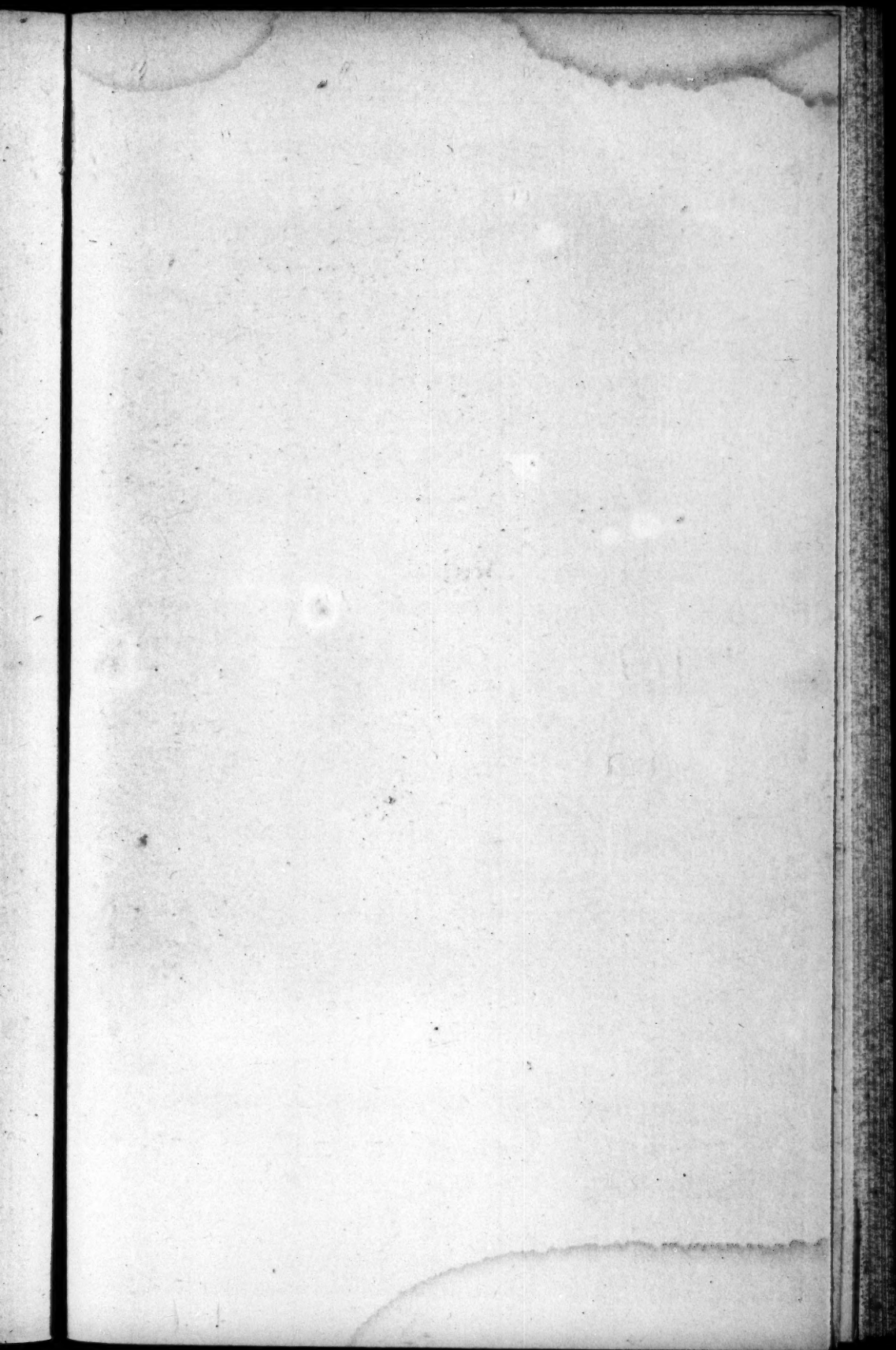
When the Emperor approached, the mandarins in waiting prostrated themselves, or it would have been impossible to have distinguished his palanquin from one of theirs. No external pomp or badge of dignity, marked his dress or equipage. It is a favourite maxim of his government to check superfluous expence, and to encourage frugality and industry in every department of his government. Actuated by the same wise and patriotic principle, he has forbid any public rejoicings on his birth-day, in this less flourishing part of his empire; but such unfeigned homage is paid to his dignified and amiable character, that except in his
immediate

immediate presence, and under his personal view, all ranks and descriptions of men, throughout his extensive dominions, give a loose to joy on this auspicious day. He had now completed the 85th year of his age, and the 57th of his reign. In the palanquin we could only observe his countenance, which was animated, and little expressive of his advanced years; his eyes were dark and piercing; and his whole air bore the impresson of the conscious dignity of virtue rather than of rank and state.

Our return was followed by a repetition of the same kind of presents, varied in pattern and colour. A profusion of fruits and confectionary accompanied those expressions of imperial munificence. In the confectionary art, the Chinese seem capable of giving a lesson to the most eminent in that line among the Europeans.

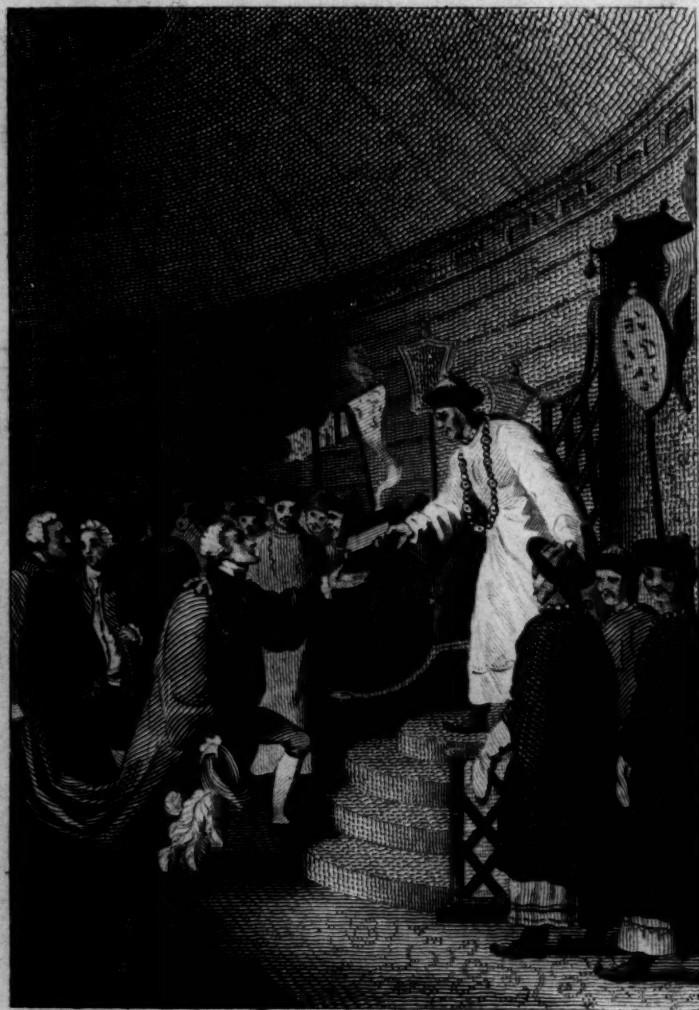
Next day, the Ambassador went in a more private manner to have an audience of leave, as the court was soon to return to Peking. At the same time, he transacted certain official business, the result of which was generally spoken of among the suite in the following terms:

That the Emperor declined entering into any written treaty with Great Britain, or indeed with any nation, as being contrary to ancient usage; at the same time he expressed the highest respect
for



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for the British nation and the King; and was strongly disposed to give them a preference in all commercial concerns; but that he would not sacrifice the interests of his own people to any foreign connections, and would only continue his avowed partiality for the English, while he found they conducted themselves in their commercial intercourse in such a manner as to deserve it.

To evince his high personal regard for the King of Great Britain, he delivered to the Ambassador with his own hand, a box of great value, containing the miniatures of all the preceding emperors, with a short character of each in verse, written by themselves; accompanied with the subsequent address:

“ Deliver this casket to the King your master, and tell him from me, that small as the present may appear, it is the most valuable I have to bestow, or my empire can furnish. It has been transmitted to me through a long line of ancestors; and I had reserved it as the last token of affection I had to bequeath to my son and heir, as a tablet of the virtues of his progenitors, which I should hope he had only to peruse to be induced to imitate; and to make it, as they had done, the grand object of his life to exalt the imperial honour, and advance the happiness of his people.”

After dinner, the Ambassador returned with his whole suite and attendants, to see a play performed

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in the imperial palace, on a temporary stage. The dramatic entertainments consisted of mock battles, vaulting, tumbling, rope-dancing, and other gymnastic amusements, which would have done no discredit to any performers. A variety of deceptions concluded the theatrical fête. One of which was the exhibition of a large bowl, in every possible position; which was immediately placed on the stage, bottom upwards and on being lifted up again, discovered a large rabbit, which escaped from the performer by taking refuge among the audience. The spectators in general, including many of our own people, were totally at a loss to account for this deception; but to many of us it was no novelty, having frequently seen the same trick exhibited by the jugglers of our own country. Other similar tricks, very dexterously performed, amused us by their novelty and apparent difficulty. The theatre made a splendid appearance, being well-filled with persons of distinction.

Next day, pipes and tobacco, sufficient to supply every individual belonging to the embassy, were received; and several mandarins came to pay their respects to the Ambassador. In these visits we observed how little regard is paid to external appearance in China. The mandarins never varied their habits; and even the court-dresses here differ very little from the ordinary habiliments.

habiliments. It may be said to consist of a loose robe, falling half way down the leg, and drawn round the neck with ribbands. Over the breast is a piece of embroidery, about five inches square, finished in gold, or silk of various colours, with an exact counterpart on the back ; which badges denote the rank of the wearer. The sash, which at other times is usually worn round the waist, is dispensed with at court.

On our approaching the coast of China, Lord Macartney had communicated the general orders by which the conduct of the embassy was to be regulated: these seemed to be dictated by good sense, and a regard to the successful prosecution of the grand objects in view. His Lordship's observations and injunctions, however, delivered at the same time, did not seem to accord with the spirit of liberty and personal security, which accompanies an Englishman wherever he is placed ; and it is to be feared they gave no very favourable idea of the British character to those on whom it was wished to impress the highest. Hitherto they had not been attempted to be carried into execution ; and it was generally believed, that a person of some rank in the embassy never approved of their tenor ; but now it was intimated, that all the servants of the Ambassador were to consider themselves as under martial law, and that they

would be punished according to its regulations, in any case of disobedience or neglect. It is true that the experiment was never made in regard to the civil servants of the embassy; but the alarm which this information gave was deeply felt and inwardly resented.

Among the orders given out, was an express injunction, forbidding any traffic with the natives. This we believe was punctually observed, as far as gain was concerned; but a private in the infantry, composing part of the Ambassador's guard, having been reported to have procured a small quantity of samtchoo by the Assistance of a Chinese soldier, he was immediately confined; and being brought to a court-martial, of which a corporal was president, he was sentenced to receive sixty lashes.

This sentence being approved by the commanding officer, the British soldiers were drawn up in form, in the outer court of the palace where we resided; and the poor culprit being fastened to one of the pillars of the great portico, received his punishment without mitigation.

The abhorrence excited in the breasts of the Chinese, at this cruel conduct, as it appeared to them, was demonstrably proved by their words and looks. They expressed their astonishment, that a people professing the mildest, the most benevolent

revolent religion on earth, as they wished to have it believed, could be guilty of such flagrant inattention to its merciful dictates. One of the principal mandarins, who knew a little English, expressed the general sentiment, "Englishman too much cruel, too much bad."

But it seems the commander of the Lion went a step farther towards alienating the affections of the Chinese from our countrymen. When that ship lay at Chusan, a native brought a bottle of samtchoo on board, intending to exchange it for some European article. His design being discovered, the Captain ordered him to be seized and punished with twelve lashes, in the presence of numbers of his countrymen; though a complaint preferred to a mandarin would have obtained the satisfaction necessary, and saved the appearance of arbitrary and cruel conduct.

The mild manners of the Chinese indeed revolt at the public exhibition of punishments: they are at a loss to reconcile European behaviour with European professions. Our faith and practice, in almost every instance, appears to them to be opposite; and these circumstances we have had the pain to record, as well as several others which occasionally happened, instead of removing unfavourable prejudices, seemed to legitimate and sanction their continuance.

CHAP. XII.

Return to Peking—Arrival of the Emperor—The Ambassador presented to him—Receives Presents in return for those of British Manufacture—Orders to prepare for our Departure—Leave Peking, &c. &c.

HAVING previously been informed that the embassy was to proceed to Peking, where its final issue was to be arranged, we set out from Jehol on the morning of the 21st of September, after a state imprisonment of fourteen days; for the liberty we had been encouraged to expect, was never granted.

In this place, however, it may be proper to give some account of two extraordinary rocks in the vicinity of Jehol. One is an immense pillar of stone, about an hundred feet high, small at the base, and gradually spreading towards the top, from several parts of which issue streams of the purest water. This lofty object is situated on the pinnacle of a mountain, which adds to its sublime effect. The upper part of this rock is rather flat, and appears to be cloathed with verdure and shrubs; but it is totally inaccessible. Some convulsion of nature must certainly have placed it
here;

here; and it is impossible to view it from the valley below without the strongest emotions of wonder and fear. The Chinese give it the name of Panfuiashaung; and justly esteem it as one of the first natural curiosities of their country.

The other is rather a cluster of rocks, whose greatest height is nearly two hundred feet: these stand likewise on the summit of a mountain; and from one point of view, appear one solid mass. Perhaps the world does not produce two grander objects of the kind.

Soon after we left Jehol, we passed the Emperor's pagoda, where we saw the tributary King of Cochin China's Ambassador and suite, advancing with the annual acknowledgment.

We slept at the imperial palace of Callachot-tueng, mentioned before, where we lost an artillery-man, of the bloody-flux; of which alarming malady several others among the military were ill. The attendant mandarin expressed great apprehension, lest the Emperor should hear of this circumstance, and an alarm of contagious disorders be given him.

Next morning we received intelligence, that the Emperor had left Jehol, and that it would be necessary to advance two stages this day in order that the palaces might be at liberty to accommodate his majesty's attendants.

Pursuing

Pursuing the same route as we had done before, and retracing the same objects, our journey to Peking was barren of incidents or novelty. We arrived there on the afternoon of the 26th, and took up our residence in the palace which had been appropriated for our use before we set out for Jehol. The arrangements which had been made, during the Ambassador's absence, seemed to meet his entire approbation; and as our stay here, at this period, was likely to be of some continuance, every preparation and provision was made for the domestic comfort of the establishment, and the splendor of the embassy.

The state canopy was erected in the principal room of the Ambassador's apartments. It was made of flowered crimson silk, and fringed with gold. The back displayed the arms of Great Britain. Under its cover five chairs of state were placed; the centre one being elevated above the rest for the Ambassador. At the other end of the apartment were hung whole length portraits of their Britannic Majesties. The whole formed an appearance for an audience-chamber, equal to the consequence of the country represented.

The arrival of the Emperor was announced by a grand discharge of artillery on the 28th.

Next day his Excellency was visited by several mandarins; and some packages of British manufacture

facture were put in a state of being presented to the Emperor.

Sickness, at this time, prevailed so much among the soldiers, attached to the embassy, that it was found expedient to establish an hospital in some vacant buildings within the precincts of the palace in which we resided, for their reception, and more speedy recovery.

On the 1st of October, a mandarin requested, in the name of the Emperor, that the ordnance presents might be sent to the palace of Yeumen-manyeumen, where the Chinese themselves were to prove and examine them. The chariots and other presents were also removed to the same place.

The following day, the Ambassador received a formal invitation to wait on the Emperor on the morrow. His Excellency went in a private manner, and transacted business with the officers of state. The conference lasted for two hours; and there were no apparent reasons for supposing that the objects of the mission were not in a progressive state of success.

The imperial palace in Peking stands in the middle of the city, and is surrounded by a very high wall. It is said to occupy a circumference of about seven miles, containing gardens both for pleasure and utility, replenished with all that is rare

rare in art or nature. Our view of the whole was very confined: and from actual observation we can say nothing of the internal splendor of the palace, or the beauty of its appendages. We must, however, confess, that this royal residence had something of an imposing appearance, compared with the surrounding objects; but there is great reason to doubt whether it deserves the extraordinary character and description it has received in several accounts of China. The entrance into the palace is by a strong stone arched way. The range of buildings fronting it is three stories high, and much embellished with galleries, gilding, and painting. The roof is covered with shining tiles, of a yellow colour; the walls are variously painted and decorated. A large body of soldiers guard the gate; and several mandarins of the first class are in constant waiting.

The Ambassador now settled the order and disposition of the tables for the different departments of the household; and every thing seemed to indicate a residence of some permanency at Peking.

More presents were unpacked, consisting of plated goods, hard-ware, and cutlery; and the whole was equally divided between the Emperor and the Grand Choulai.

On the 5th, the Emperor visited the palace of Yeumen-manyeumen, to inspect the presents which

which were lodged there; and was pleased to order several ingots of silver to be distributed to every person attending. The English artificers, who were the immediate objects of his generosity, and had a complete view of him, described his Majesty as being about five feet ten inches high; of a slender form, but well proportioned; and that his countenance presented a regularity of features, free from the decrepitude of age. His deportment was attractively affable; and the dignity of the prince was only displayed in the superior manners of the man. He was habited in a robe of yellow silk, and a cap of black velvet, surmounted with a red ball, and adorned with a peacock's feather. He wore silk boots, embroidered with gold, and a blue silk sash.

The opinion his Majesty formed of the presents could only be collected from their being generally received. Two camera obscuras were, however, returned, as being suited only to the amusement of children. Our interpreter, explained to the mandarins the nature and use of a variety of articles.

Presents were this day received from the Emperor for their Britannic Majesties. The Ambassador and suite had likewise their proportion.

At noon on the 16th, the Ambassador again went to visit the Emperor; but on his arrival at court

court he fainted away, and being conveyed home, continued indisposed during the day. In the meanwhile, Sir George Staunton and Colonel Benson distributed to each of the soldiers and servants, some pieces of silk, others of dongaree, (a kind of nankeen) and a junk of silver, of considerable weight, as a present from his Imperial Majesty.

The optical, mechanical and mathematical instruments being removed from the palace of Yeumen-manyeumen, the gentlemen and mechanics were dismissed from their attendance there. On a trial of the powers of some of the articles, before the mandarins, they failed in the effects ascribed to them, and others excited little surprize or admiration in the Chinese literati, who viewed them.

A report began to circulate, that we were soon to quit Peking. It occasioned a considerable share of speculation, though it obtained less credit than afterwards appeared to be due.

This report, which at first met with only a faint belief in general, was confirmed by an order from the Ambassador, to prepare for our departure on Wednesday. Our surprize and concern may easily be conceived. After a variety of fatigues, we consoled ourselves that we should now have enjoyed some repose; but all personal considerations

tions were absorbed in public affairs, in which the humblest individual felt an interest. The grand objects of the embassy were evidently unaccomplished; and in our attachment to the good of our country, its honour, its advantage, we forgot every other care.

To gain a little respite, till the baggage was packed up and arranged, seemed a reasonable demand. The attendant mandarin made the requisition: an order arrived from the Grand Choulai to suspend our departure till Friday: but judge our astonishment, when this was countermanded by the Emperor himself, and we were expressly ordered to depart on the day first intimated.

It is not to be supposed that our situation could enable us to judge of the reasons on which this unexpected mandate was founded. It was reported by the Chinese, that as the business on the part of the Emperor was already compleated, he was surprized the English Ambassador was not anxious to return to his own country. It was also said, that his Majesty was alarmed at the number of our sick, lest any contagion should be communicated to his subjects. Nor were there persons wanting who ascribed his determination to an aversion contracted against us, from the skill and ingenuity we evinced in those engines of destruction, the brass mortars, which were tried in his

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presence.

presence. It was said he deprecated the spirit of a people, who, contrary to the vital avowed principles of their religion, had made such a proficiency in arts which seemed to contradict them all.

To speculate on the policy that actuated the court of Peking on this occasion, would be vain. We shall neither presume to ascribe it to any misconduct or mismanagement; but the manner in which the embassy was dismissed was certainly ungracious, and mortifying in the extreme.

In this state of affairs, Lord Macartney sent the carriage of ceremony, as a present to the Grand Choulai, which was refused; and after we had left Peking we found it returned on our way.

The confusion arising from this sudden and unexpected event, rendered it impossible to arrange the baggage with any order. We huddled it together in the best manner that circumstances would permit. Some articles, which could not be packed up, or were now useless, were given to the mandarins; the natives took care to purloin a share, and Lord Macartney's servants had the canopy of state.

We set out on the road that leads to Tong-tchew at a very early hour on the morning of the 9th, and reached that town in the evening. Even the thoughts of being on the return to our country failed to relieve the gloom of disappointment; and

and to encrease our unpleasant sensations, we met with neglect and humble accommodations, compared to what we had experienced before. We were lodged here in temporary sheds, hung with straw matting.

Next morning, on proceeding to the side of the river, we found the junks intended for our reception. The baggage was put on board with all possible expedition, but not without a degree of confusion beyond what we had yet known. The Ambassador and his suite occupied seven junks; the attendant mandarin and his party followed in separate vessels. Soon after the embarkation was performed, dinner was served up; and at an early hour we retired to rest, after a most fatiguing day.

Nothing occurred for some days: we still attracted the notice of the natives; but received much less of the ceremonious attentions of our former voyage.

On the 16th we left the channel of the river, and entered a canal of infinite labour and expence. The sides are masonry throughout its extent; and at certain distances locks, in the form of a crescent, are erected, which confining the water to a narrow passage in the middle of the canal, occasions a moderate fall of about three feet. The motion of the junks is accelerated in passing these locks, and continues to some distance; and to pre-

vent vessels receiving damage from striking against the walls of the lock, men are always ready to let down large leathern pads, which effectually break the shock.

In the course of this day we passed a number of these locks, whose construction and effects, we found invariably the same.

For some days we sailed through a country rich in agriculture and population. We observed plantations of the shrub which produces the imperial and gunpowder tea. In size and figure it resembles the gooseberry-bush. Imperial tea is the produce of the first blossoms; gunpowder tea is a collection of the successive blossoms, as they appear.

Not only the exterior marks of respect had been withdrawn from the embassy by the Chinese, but we even found our provisions deficient, both in quantity and quality. A representation to the mandarin procured immediate redress in this particular; and it was farther reported, that the same benevolent character had exerted himself with effect to do away some very unfavourable impressions, with which a Tartar mandarin had prejudiced the Emperor against the English, by representing them as divested of every amiable quality, and addicted to every vice.

On the 20th we passed numerous plantations of
tobacco;

tobacco; a plant cultivated here in the greatest variety, and to the greatest extent, of any country in the world. Indeed smoking being the universal practice from infancy to old age, the quantity of tobacco consumed in China must exceed all moderate calculation.

Several considerable cities appeared at a small distance from the canal; the garrisons from which advanced to the banks, to give the usual salute.

Several corn-mills, worked by water, and apparently on the same construction as in Europe, arrested our attention in our progress.

A lofty pagoda, of eight stories, opened to our view on the morning of the 23d. Next day we saw the Chinese post pass along the road on the margin of the canal. The letters are inclosed in a large bamboo basket, hooped with cane; it is then locked, and the key is given into the custody of one of the soldiers, who delivers it to the post-master. The basket is then strapped on the courier's shoulders, and being decorated with a number of little bells at the bottom, they make a loud jingling when shaken by the motion of the horse, and announce the approach of the post. Five light-horsemen escort the courier; and as the fleetest horses are selected, and changed at every stage, the mails in China are conveyed with extraordinary expedition.

The junks anchored on the evening of the following day in the heart of a large city, through which the canal passes. A continual succession of bridges connects the banks. These are guarded by soldiers, who suffer no vessel to pass till a mandarin has inspected it. The fleet here received a salute of three guns; and a numerous body of soldiers lined the banks.

We soon arrived at Kord-cheeaung, a city of equal magnitude with the last; in the center of which we saw a pagoda of ten stories, each surrounded by a gallery.

After passing several large cities in the course of this day's voyage, we anchored for the night at Lee-yaungoa, which was illuminated in honour of the Ambassador. Public attentions indeed began again to be more frequent, and ceremoniously paid.

Passed the city of Kaunghoo on the 26th, and found such an amazing number of junks lying there as impeded our passage for some time. The canal winds through this place, and its banks slope down to the water in a very beautiful form.

Every spot in our passage gave testimony to the existence of art, and the effects of industry. On the 29th we observed the peasants ploughing. They worked with oxen; and though their ploughs were

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of a very clumsy form, the labour seemed to be neatly and properly executed.

A repetition of the meagre incidents that fell in our way would be tiresome. Towns, bridges, locks, and junks, fields covered with plenty, and people beyond calculation, were now common objects.

The canal became much more expanded; and on the 2d of November we reached a city of great extent and trade. Several canals meet here; and on the south side of it is, a bay, communicating with the Yellow River, in which the noblest fleets of Europe might ride.

The hills in the vicinity are beautifully green; their summits are crowned with pagodas; while villas and gardens adorn the lower slopes.

Passing through the bay, in which various opposite currents meet, we soon entered a large river, and found ourselves again imbosomed in a rich and delightful country.

Town opened on our enchanted senses after town; and no words can convey an adequate idea of the picturesque scenery that surrounded us.

About the hour of dinner, we arrived at a town of unusual magnitude and beauty, through which the river flowed for the space of three miles. The houses were uniformly of brick, varied with a bluish

bluish coloured stone, and generally rise to two stories high.

Here we received the military honours so often mentioned; and indeed it may in general be observed, that there was neither town nor village through which we passed, that had not its mandarin, and its proportionate number of guards and troops, not only in China, but also in the remote and less populous regions of Tartary.

The country soon after assumed a swampy appearance; the natural consequence of so many rivers, canals, and lakes, which intersect it, and promote its commercial intercourse.

The weather was cold and the mornings frosty. The climate unquestionably is affected by the large bodies of water which every where abound in this part of the country. We now understood that it was the Yellow River on which we were sailing, probably so called from some communications with the Yellow Sea. We passed several lakes. On the 3d we saw a number of fishing-boats employed in their vocations, and procured from them a small fish, about the size of a sprat, but in flavour and form resembling the haddock. On the opposite side of this lake we discovered the city of Chun-foong. It is built of a dark-coloured stone, roofed with tiles of the same hue. This place ap-
pears

pears to be about eight miles in circumference; and from the dress and manners of its inhabitants, we could easily determine was both commercial and polite.

Next day we passed two other large lakes; and soon after reached the town of Kiangfou, which is large and walled. A mandarin and his guards appeared, to give the customary salutes; and at each end of the line of troops, a temporary arch was erected, with a platform reaching down to the river, very elegantly adorned, to afford a landing to the Ambassador, should he happen to be disposed to stop. At a small distance, tents were pitched, in the centre of which was the mandarin's pavilion, where a collation was ready for the entertainment of his Excellency and the mandarins in our fleet. But the order of the voyage prevented them from accepting this tribute of hospitality and politeness.

Beyond this, we came to another large town of superior beauty, where we stopped to receive a supply of provisions, and to be furnished with towers for the junks. Here we were gratified with the sight of a number of fine women, whose complexions were uncommonly fair.

In the afternoon we passed a town which could not be less than nine miles in circuit. The walls are of immense height, and seem to be ancient.

Several

Several hundreds of junks were moored along its wharfs.

On the 5th we entered a lake, sprinkled with a variety of beautiful islands; the most considerable of them contains the palace of a mandarin, with most beautiful summer-houses, plantations, and gardens; a lofty rock rose amid the trees, and supported on his top a stately pagoda.

We soon entered another river, whose banks became highly picturesque, on which, and the adjoining heights, we saw a variety of villas, with gilt pyramids rising from the roofs, in the gothic stile.

At the city of Mée-you-mee-aung we stopped to take in the customary supply of provisions. Nature seems to have formed this place for the purposes of navigation; and rural beauty to have fixed her residence in its vicinity.

Falling down the river, an unexpected meander brought us back again upon the city, and astonished us with its extent and the variety of new prospects that presented themselves. The mandarin's palace was a splendid object. It was uniformly built; the wings were two stories high, and the centre three.

The country continued to improve in landscape beauty. The hills were verdant to their tops, and covered with cattle and sheep. In our progress

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we observed a brick-kiln. The materials of which these valuable articles in building were composed, seemed to be a mixture of sand and river mud; the kiln was of a pyramid form. In the evening, several pagodas, illuminated in honour of the Ambassador, spread a lustre over the gloom.

CHAP. XIII.

Picturesque Beauty of the Country—Punishment of the Captains of several Junks for Embezzlement—Voyage on the Yellow and Green Rivers—Chinese Fishing.

THE Chinese houses are not only varied in their stile and decorations, but even the towns are marked by the colour of the materials of which they are built. On the 6th of November we entered a town of a most dismal hue. It was wholly erected of black brick; and as the houses were more lofty than those generally seen in this country, its peculiar character made the stronger impression.

Soon after we reached the mandarin's palace;
a stone

a stone building of singular architecture. This officer had erected a temporary stage to communicate between his residence and the river, the roof of which was covered with silk of every dye; and from it a number of lamps were fancifully suspended. All this was done for the accommodation, and in honour of the Ambassador, if he or the attendant mandarins should be disposed to land. Of his elegant hospitality it was not allowed to partake by the circumstances of our voyage.

A succession of towns, locks, bridges, and pagodas, distract the eye for some hours. In the afternoon, the banks of the river rose with such a bold elevation as to intercept our view of the country.

In consequence of a complaint against some of the captains of the junks, for embezzlement of provisions, the grand mandarin instituted an inquiry after the fleet came to anchor this evening; and being convinced of the truth of the charge, sentenced the culprits to be bamboosed, which was immediately carried into execution.

In the course of next day we had a transient view of Chinese agriculture; and from the awkward implements employed, our admiration of the fertility of the country and the labour of the natives was increased.

We passed another town, the houses of which
were

were covered with plaister, and painted black. At the entrance and the extremity of this place, which is very large, we sailed under a noble arch.

So various were the features of the river, and so frequent was the intersection of canals, that we were often at a loss to ascertain whether we were sailing on the former or the latter. This, however, may be of little importance: the general outline of the country has been faithfully delineated—to catch every object would have been impossible.

As it was intended to forward the heavy baggage from Hoang-tchew to Chusan, in order to its being conveyed by sea to Canton, arrangements were made for this purpose. A party of the gentlemen of the embassy, and servants, were to accompany it; the Ambassador and the remainder were to proceed over land, with only the absolute necessities of apparel and travelling.

On the 9th the grand mandarin visited every junk, the owners of which he briefly examined; and then ordered them to suffer the punishment of the bamboo. Their crime we could never learn.

Passing several plantations of tallow trees, we arrived at Hoang-tchew, on the afternoon of the 10th; when the junks were all fastened together,

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and

and every person belonging to the suite was forbid to land. Indeed a body of Chinese soldiers pitched their tents opposite to us, as if to awe us into compliance. During the time we lay here, no circumstance happened worthy of being recorded. The mandarin of Hoang-tchew had accompanied us from Pekin, and being superior to Van-Tadge-In, of course assumed the supreme direction during this part of our voyage. Here he was to remain.

The heavy baggage, which was to be sent to Chusan, being separated from the light articles we were to carry with us to Canton, Colonel Benson, Captain Mackintosh, and party, set off to join the Hindostan at Chusan, on the fifth day after our arrival; and same day also we left Hoang-tchew.

The Ambassador, accompanied by his retinue, proceeded, on the 14th of November, for the Green River, where we were again to embark in smaller junks. On passing the city gates, the embassy received the customary salute. Between the two rivers the distance could not be less than seven miles; and the whole space was covered by the city and suburbs, and lined with soldiers, who secured us from the pressure of an innumerable multitude of people. The streets are narrow, but well-paved; the houses two and three stories high; and

and the magnificence of the shops was beyond any thing we had hitherto seen. In commerce and population, Hoang-tchew is a city of the first magnitude.

At noon we reached the Green River, where the Ambassador was received with military honours. The troops were armed with helmets, and made with their accompaniments, a splendid appearance.

A triumphal arch, with a platform descending to the Ambassador's junk, had been erected for the occasion. Our embarkation was attended by myriads of people. Some were mounted on buffaloes, which animal carried several at a time on its back, and appeared very docile.

Our voyage was continued between ranges of mountains, presenting the most romantic scenery. The vallies were covered with tallow and mulberry-trees. The former is called the latchoo, and is remarkably beautiful, having scarlet leaves edged with yellow, and purplish blossoms.

The river on which we now sailed, was, at a medium, about three-feet deep. The water has a green cast, and the bottom is gravelly.

In the evening of the 15th, the city of Zangnoa made a most brilliant appearance with its illuminations. The effect was encreased by nu-

merous bodies of soldiers ranged along the banks of the river, with paper lanterns.

Next day the features of the country through which we sailed, were still mountainous and picturesque; and the forts and salutes became so frequent that they grew absolutely tiresome. Indeed, so much military honour was paid to the embassy, that the salutes could only be compared to a train of wild-fire laid from Peking to Canton, and continually exploding as we proceeded.

On the 18th the country changed to a fine champaign, in which numerous villages rose, amid plantations of tallow and mulberry-trees. This day we passed a group of water-mills, all turned by a small cut from the river, flowing in a circular direction. These appeared to be on the European construction; and as we understood, were employed in threshing rice.

The following day the banks of the river resumed the usual appearance; and long ranges of mountains rose into the horizon.

The 20th brought us to a large and beautiful town, where we were again to disembark. The scenery here might have advantageously employed the warmest pencil. The river formed a central object, on one side was the town, with its appropriate circumstances, and a military encampment
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in front, with all its gaudy ensigns; on the other side lofty perpendicular hills bounded the view in the most sublime stile.

Having disembarked, we proceeded next day by land, and soon reached the city of Chanfoiyeng, where the Ambassador was received with due distinction. Leaving this, we passed another walled city and several villages; and arrived at the city of Yoosaun, early in the afternoon, where we drank refreshments of tea at the palace of the mandarin; and having stowed the baggage on board another fleet of junks provided for our accommodation, we all embarked, and were anxious to proceed on our voyage.

On the morning of the 24th of November we found ourselves before the city of Mammenoa. The river now winded away between enormous masses of stone, without any continuity or connection; exhibiting the appearance of some volcanic eruption. Some of these huge stones had been excavated into dwellings; and every interstice between them was occupied by hortulane productions. This stupendous scenery continued for several miles; it was grand, perhaps unique, in itself; and where it admitted of views into the more distant country, it produced a most delightful picture.

We reached the city of Hoa-quoo in the afternoon,

noon, where, much to our satisfaction, we found larger junks ready to receive us. The mandarin of the place politely sent a variety of fruits and confectionary for the use of every junk. For two days the weather had been very rainy; it now became more moderate. The country through which we passed was rich and fertile; a few red rocks occasionally broke the level of the scene.

The fog was so thick on the morning of the 26th as to obscure the country. About noon it dispersed; and the eye ranged over a level extent of rice fields, intersected with villas and gardens.

Our provisions had for some time been very indifferent; not from neglect, but the nature of the country. In proportion as we fared worse our Chinese junk-men fared better; they received not only our superfluity, but sometimes almost the whole.

The 27th presented a novel scene—a village entirely built of mud, with inhabitants as wretched in appearance as their habitations were mean. For this sight we were unable to account.

The river had now assumed a formidable breadth; and as the wind was high, the waves and surf resembled those of the sea. We passed numbers of fishing-boats, which served to vary the navigation of the stream.

The city of Tyaung-shi-sennau appeared in
view

view on the 28th. We passed it in the afternoon; and for extent and the advantages of situation, it unquestionably deserves to be reckoned one of the first in China. Not less than a thousand junks lay at anchor before it. It is built near the conflux of several rivers, and enjoys a most extensive commerce. The grand mandarin paid a visit on board his Excellency's junk, and made a variety of presents, in silk, porcelain and tea.

The only novelty that presented itself, in the course of our voyage on the 29th, was a village built with blue bricks, and covered with tiles of the same colour. Pagodas and the palaces of mandarins were now become familiar objects.

The following day we passed a city lying amid beautiful meadows and orchards, about two miles distance from the river. Beyond this the prospect became as delightful as fancy can conceive. Mountains rose into the horizon, forests waved on the slopes, and flocks and herds covered the vales.

The river was now expanded to a great breadth; and as the wind blew fresh, the junks sometimes appeared in danger of being overfet. At this time the thermometer had sunk to 40; and the fields were covered with frost.

It has been previously remarked, that there are no public cemeteries, except in the vicinity of populous places. Hence the country becomes a
continued

continued burial-ground. Which ever way we turned our eyes, some trophy of death appeared; and the degree of embellishment it had received marked the rank of the deceased. Indeed it is not unusual for the Chinese to erect their funeral monuments in their lifetime; and as the choice of situation is free, many of them become picturesque objects.

On the 1st of December we sailed by the town of Saunt-yo-tawn, where several superb pagodas rose above the surrounding groves. Numerous timber-yards occupied the banks of the river; and a large quantity of timber was immersed in the stream, which, as we were told, was in a state of preparation for the building of junks, the principal business of the place.

The cities of Loo Dichean, Morriun Dew, and Chic-a-foo, which we now approached, all lie contiguous to each other. Art and Nature have united their efforts to encrease the beauty of this charming vicinity. At a distance we observed vast columns of smoke, which rose, as we were informed, from a porcelain manufactory.

In the evening we reached the city of Ching-foo. Here illuminations, the firing of rockets and of artillery, took place in honour of the Ambassador. We received also a present of fruit and confectionary from the mandarin of the place.

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To note every object which arrested and pleased the eye of the traveller, would fatigue the reader without informing him. Every bend of the river opened a new prospect that gratified the sight, to which no description, however vivid, could do justice. The season of the year was now the most unpropitious for landscape beauty; yet the charms of nature, intermixed with the vestiges of art, imparted successive impulses of delight.

On the 2d of December we passed the city of Fie-cho-jeunau, embosomed in plantations. From its apparent population, and the number of junks employed in its commerce, it was evidently to be ranked in the first class of Chinese towns.

Next day we were gratified with the view of some beautiful ruins. The original destination of the edifice we could not certainly discover; but from the remains still visible, we concluded it must have once been a work of no common magnificence.

In this part of the empire, situation seems to be duly appreciated. The villas of the mandarins, the pagodas, and even some of the private dwellings, are erected with a palpable regard to the circumstances of the place, and the beauty of the scenery.

We observed numbers of fishermen employed in their vocation with rods and lines. In lakes
and

and large rivers, the same kind of bait is frequently used as at sea. Nets too are in very common use. In some places bamboo canes, supporting a curtain of strong gauze, are placed across the streams; and then the fish being allured to the spot by baits, are caught in nets with great success.

On enquiry, we found that the rights of fishery, as in Europe, are private property. In those rivers we navigated, a kind of whiting and trout were the most plentiful. These are sold to the crews of the junks, and the demand for them is very great.

While on the subject of fishing, a mode peculiar to the Chinese, of catching them by a species of birds, trained up for that purpose, should not pass without notice. The fowls are called looau, and are said to be indigenous here. They are about the size of a goose; of a grey colour; web-footed; and furnished with a long slender bill, incurvated at the extremity. This bird builds among the reeds, or in the hollows of cliffs, adjoining the shores. When trained for fishing, to which nature gives them an extraordinary degree of aptitude and docility, a certain number of them are taken out in each boat, and at a given signal they dive, and bring up their prey with unerring certainty, and with equal certainty deposit it in the
boat

boat to which they respectively belong, though hundreds may be mixed. These astonishing aquatic birds will soon fill a boat, where fish is plentiful; and it is positively affirmed, that when one of them seizes a fish too large to manage singly, its companions join in affording assistance. A ring passed round the neck, prevents them from swallowing what they catch.

Early in the afternoon we anchored before the city of Vang-on-chean; where the Ambassador received a visit from the mandarin. This place occupies a considerable space; on one side it is bounded by the river, on the other by a range of high mountains.

A succession of towns and villages enlivened our voyage during the succeeding day. The features of the country became craggy and elevated into hills; but fertility, in every possible situation, shewed the labour of diligent cultivation.

The appearance of indigence is by no means common in China; but this day we observed a cluster of cottages meanly constructed of logs of wood, and indicating internal wretchedness.

We have so frequently repeated the charms of the country through which we passed, that it is feared a continual enumeration of similar objects may fail of affording entertainment. On the 5th
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the river became very shoally, and we anchored before dark to avoid the dangers of such a navigation. This day we passed the city of Joo-jen-nau, situated at the bottom of a lofty mountain. Here we found that the river on which we had sailed communicated with another of equal magnitude. The position of a city, at the conflux of two large rivers, readily points out its convenience for trade.

Leaving this place, the stream was divided into two streams by a beautiful islet, in which the mandarin had an elegant seat, probably for his occasional retirement.

In the evening, the city of Kaung-joo-foo presented the most brilliant nocturnal illumination we had hitherto seen; and this complimentary attention was heightened by a present of fruits and confectionary from the mandarin.

CHAP. XIV.

Chinese Method of watering Grounds—Journey over Land to Naung-chin-oo—Re-embark—Grand Illumination on the Hills in honour of the Ambassador.

WE have frequently had occasion to remark the improved state of agriculture in this country. In our passage down the river on the 6th of December, we observed a number of machines, with which the Chinese water their grounds. They consist of a wheel of bamboo, turned by a stream, which throwing the water into large reservoirs, it is from thence distributed by sluices into a thousand channels.

The beautiful village of Shai-boo, situated on a bold elevation, above the river, was the principal object in the landscape, till the attention was called away by the pagoda of Tau-ay; the upper part of which being in ruins, gave it a more picturesque and impressive appearance, and well accorded with the character of the little burial-place at its foot.

The town of Whan-ting-taun was the only place of any importance we passed in this day's

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voyage.

voyage. Villages were numerous; and some huts again made their appearance, of the humblest construction.

Next day was the most remarkable we had yet experienced. During our whole progress we saw neither city, town, nor village. A few farm-houses were, however, dispersed over the face of the country. The banks of the river were lofty, and formed of a perpendicular barrier of red earth, streaked with horizontal veins of stone, in a direction perfectly rectilinear. This natural curiosity continued for several miles.

The shallowness of the river obliged us again to shift the baggage into junks of lesser burden; and in the course of the evening we found ourselves in the vicinity of some town or village, from the number of paper lanterns we saw exhibited by the soldiers, and the complimentary salute they paid us.

The weather had for some days been temperate; but the face of the country was no longer the same. Barren mountains, separated by plains that seemed to defy the labour of man to produce fertility, now presented themselves on all hands. Some dwarf-trees, however, among which the camphire is said to predominate, broke the abruptness of the slopes; and here and there a village or a pagoda animated the scene.

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In this place we observed several sepulchral monuments, with excavations in the rocks beneath, as receptacles for the dead. The most elevated spots, the most abrupt precipices, we generally observed, were appropriated for the repose of the dead. Whether this choice was determined with a regard to notoriety, or from any superstitious opinion that the body might be placed as near as possible to that heaven where spirits wing their flight, we could obtain no satisfactory information. The amiable virtues, however, of the Chinese, were rendered more conspicuous by the feeling regard they uniformly appear to shew to the remains of those they have once loved or respected.

On the 9th we arrived at the city of Naung-aum-foo. Here the embassy was to make a day's march over land; and accordingly we disembarked. The landing-place was adorned with a triumphal arch, highly decorated with silken streamers, and connected, by a platform, with a circular court, surrounded by a screen of silk. In this place a number of horses were collected, with the choice of one of which every person in the suite was indulged, for the journey of the day. The Ambassador, with two or three gentlemen of his suite, were to proceed as usual in palanquins. The horses being selected, the cavalcade com-

menced their progress; and perhaps such an exhibition of equestrian exercise and grotesque dress, never before amused a Chinese populace. The horses were spirited, many of the riders were new to this mode of travelling. The cries of fear, and the shouts of ridicule, were every where heard; and scarcely could we attend to the passing scene; so much were we engaged by the peculiarities of our own situation.

Naung-aum-foo, through which we passed, is a large walled city; and though the river here does not admit large junks, from the very great number of smaller ones which lined its shores, we concluded it had no inconsiderable pretensions to a commercial character.

At noon we arrived at the foot of a lofty mountain, where we were obliged to dismount. Having gained the ascent, we passed several villages; and dined at the town of Lee-cou-au, where the road was lined with soldiers in armour, to salute the Ambassador as he passed.

The splendor of cultivation was exchanged for the landscape of the barren mountain. However, large patches of camphire and other trees sometimes relieved the eye.

We arrived at the gates of Naung-chin-oa, just as the sun had sunk beneath the horizon. This city stands in a plain, encircled on three sides by hills,

hills, and on the fourth by the river, on which we were to continue our voyage. The houses are chiefly built of wood, in general two stories high; and the streets are narrow, but well-paved. In exterior appearance and decoration, it preserves the general character of Chinese towns.

Soldiers lined the streets, to facilitate our passage to the mandarin's palace, a very noble building, consisting of several courts. A splendid entertainment was provided for the whole suite; and such a profusion of lights decorated the principal apartments as are never displayed in Europe on any occasion. Indeed, illumination, we may safely affirm, constitutes the grand appropriate feature of Chinese magnificence.

We began embarking in the morning of the 11th of December, on board small junks, corresponding with the depth of the river; and before noon we resumed our voyage; sailing under a wooden bridge of seven arches, with stone pillars, strongly guarded by soldiers at each end. From this point, the city appears in a very advantageous view. Beyond the bridge the river divided into two branches, taking almost opposite directions. The town of Chang-fang was the only place of note we passed in this day's voyage.

The face of the country had few lively features; and its artificial circumstances increased the gloom.

Sepulchral monuments were the chief objects which we saw in the course of next day. The only novelty was floating rafts, with several bamboo huts, well tenanted, which we passed near the village of Ty-ang-koa.

On the 13th we came to the city of Shaw-choo, where the houses, adjoining the river, appear to be so slenderly supported, as to threaten constant ruin to their inhabitants and the passengers. At the extremity of this city the fleet anchored; and here the Ambassador experienced the elegant attention of the mandarin in a very superior degree.

Junks of larger dimensions were again prepared to receive the embassy; and next day we passed through a country sometimes varied with patches of cultivated ground, though mountainous sterility was still the predominant feature.

Towards evening we found the hills gradually approaching the river, till at last they seemed to close, and admit only its course. This gloomy scene continued for some time, as if to heighten the contrast that was to open. We now reached a mountain of immense perpendicular height, the upper part of which appears to project over the stream. Its contour is bare rock and shaggy foliage; and this extends for nearly two miles. Its termination, like its commencement, is abrupt. At the extreme point, a pyramidal rock appears

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to rise above the edge of the precipice; and this is separated by an interjacent plain from another enormous rock, of the same character, though of a different form.

Another range of hills commenced after we had left these stupendous objects, and continued to exclude our view of the country; but no sooner were we come to the end of this chain, than a burst of illumination, carried over mountains and vallies for several miles, wrapt the senses in ecstasy and astonishment; this line of undulating light was so various and so brilliant, that no words can do justice to its sublime effects. Immense bonfires on the summits reddened the clouds; while spiral streams of fire serpentised up the ascents, or sunk into the declivities below. The number of lanterns or torches employed on this occasion must have astonished by their immensity, as well as by their effects; and we can only say, that such a magnificent spectacle was never before displayed to European eyes. Discharges of artillery were repeated at intervals; and night was lost in the artificial blaze.

CHAP. XV.

Mountain of Koan-yeng-naum described—Arrive at Canton—Temporary Residence provided for the Ambassador and his Suite—Canton described—Whampoa described—Eulogium on Van-Tadge-In—Macao described—Embark for Europe—Arrive at Spithead.

THE grand mandarin ordered the fleet to stop on the 15th of December, to indulge the embassy with a leisure view of the Mountain of Koan-yeng-naum, one of the natural curiosities of China. It has a perpendicular ascent from the water, terminating in a peak; and from the face towards the river, such enormous masses project, as menace every moment to fill up the channel of the stream.

But art has heightened the curious circumstances of this extraordinary mountain. It contains several caverns. One of them is about forty feet above the level of the water. To this there is access by a flight of steps, guarded by a rail. On reaching the top of the flight, we enter a room of good dimensions, excavated from the rock; in which stands an image sacred to Chinese devotions. An artificial staircase conducts to two other superior apartments; and the whole is fitted up by the mandarin to whom the mountain belongs, in a
file

stile of rude magnificence, corresponding to the character of the place.

Proceeding through a country presenting many sublime features, we reached the city of Shizing-ta-heng about noon. This place enjoys every local advantage that can contribute to render it picturesque in a high degree.

Lofty banks for a considerable space shut out our view of the land; and where a casual opening gave a wider prospect, it was not marked with any new features. Similar objects occurred—varied only by shape, or discriminated by light and shadow.

The evening was cheered with an illumination of the distant hills. The coup d'œil was extremely grand, but inferior to what we had witnessed before.

Next day steep rocks, in various grotesque forms, sometimes tinted with foliage, sometimes the traces of laborious taste, were the prevailing character of the landscape.

We reached the city of Tsing-yan-yeun. It is well fortified, of great extent and population. The number of junks which lay before it, indicated an enlarged commerce. Triumphant arches decorated the beach; and several regiments of soldiers paid the military honours as we passed.

From this city the river takes a direct course
for

for some miles, amid fertile and highly cultivated meadows. The mountains fall into the back ground.

One of the junks was in imminent danger of being consumed by a spark falling unobserved from a tobacco-pipe. Indeed, where smoking is so generally used, it is a matter of astonishment that accidents are not more frequent and fatal.

On the 17th we passed the extensive village of Ouz-chouaa, where a number of manufactories appear to be established. The country now resumed its fertility and beauty; and provisions became both plentiful and excellent.

In the evening we reached Sangs-we-yenno, where the Ambassador received every honour that the most elegant attention on the part of the mandarin could pay, or his Excellency expect. This is a large and commercial city. The illuminations displayed here were peculiarly grand.

On the following morning we passed a series of very large and populous towns, so closely connected, that we seemed for some hours to be sailing through one city of immense extent. The salutes were almost incessant as we proceeded; and every place poured thousands of its inhabitants, though at a very early hour, to obtain a transient view of an European embassy.

We now approached the city of Tayn-tsyn-tau,
a place

a place of the first importance and the most extensive trade. The suburbs lie on both sides the river for several miles; and if we may judge from those circumstances that fell under our inspection, in extent population, and commerce, this city is only inferior to Pekin or to Canton. Thousands of junks covered the river for a vast space; and scarcely had we overcome the difficulties and impediments of this crowded navigation, before we found ourselves approaching to Canton, the termination of our voyage.

Our arrival being notified at Canton, several mandarins waited on his Excellency; and these were soon followed by the gentlemen of the English factory and Colonel Benson. This officer brought with him the public dispatches for the Ambassador, and a packet of private letters from our friends in England. Those only who have been so long cut off from any communication with the land which contained all that was dear to them, can form an adequate idea of the anxious joy we felt at opening a letter from the relative or friend we loved.

Next day we were moved into larger junks. The magnificence of the river at this place baffles description. Its surface was almost covered with vessels, engaged in trade, or attracted by curiosity. The banks were lined with soldiers, and covered
with

with elegant houses; and a succession of forts thundered out salutes with almost incessant rapidity.

We reached the English factory about one in the afternoon; and both it and the Dutch factory paid his Excellency the usual salute, hoisting at the same time the standard of their respective countries.

For some days it had been a common, though affecting sight, to see the boats generally rowed by women. We sometimes observed a child tied to its mother's back, and another at her breast, while she was plying the oar. To a feeling mind this spectacle could not fail to give pain; and it may be remarked, that in Tartary, and the northern provinces of China, where the women are lamed, either by fashion or policy, from their infant years, such laborious occupations can never fall to their lot. Five inches and an half was found to be the length of a full grown woman's foot, where the practice of compression was in use: it is, however, by no means universal.

A temporary residence for the Ambassador and suite had been provided by the East India Company's supercargoes; and in point of accommodation and domestic arrangement, we found it superior to the first palaces in which we had lodged, during our long peregrination in China.

Canton

Canton being the only city in China where Europeans are suffered to trade, it is comparatively well known. A brief description will therefore suffice.

This city is walled, strongly fortified, and garrisoned with numerous troops. The streets are generally narrow, but well-paved; and the houses, which are constructed of wood and stone, seldom rise above one story high.

The Viceroy's palace is exactly on the model of that in which we resided at Peking. Triumphal arches are numerous and splendid; and these are the only public buildings in the place.

The population has been estimated at a million of souls: the suburbs cannot contain less than half that number.

The river at Canton is noble and deep; the water, however, is not wholesome for strangers, till its sediment has been allowed to subside. In this respect the natives give themselves no concern. The river that flows by Tong-tchew was found to contain half a pint of yellow sand in every gallon of its water; and yet no one ever thought it necessary to purify it by filtration.

The suburbs of Canton, in which indeed, properly speaking, all the European commerce is carried on, are very extensive, and every where exhibit commercial opulence; but they have no pretensions

tensions to grandeur or elegance. The warehouses are noble repositories of the manufactures of the country: they are, however, rather great than grand. England, Holland, France, Sweden, Denmark, Portugal, Spain, and America, have their respective factories here, which are fitted up on the banks of the river, in the European stile of architecture; and their general distinction, is the flag of their different nations displayed on some conspicuous part of the building. The English appear to engross by far the greatest share of the Chinese trade.

The Viceroy of Canton only once visited the Ambassador during his stay. Large presents of sugar-candy, porcelain, and nankeen, were distributed to the whole embassy.

For several days, during the time of dinner, the Ambassador was entertained with Chinese plays, performed on a stage erected before the windows of his apartments.

On the first day of the new year, 1794, his Excellency and suite were splendidly entertained by the gentlemen of the British factory. The band of music which had accompanied the embassy, on the request of the factory, were permitted to enter into its service; and in a country where amusements are so few and confined, it could not fail to be a valuable acquisition.

Degeneracy

Degeneracy of manners evidently marks the characters of the inhabitants of Canton, and this reflection is the more melancholy, as there is too much reason to suppose the contagion of European example has infected the simplicity and honesty of the Chinese general character.

On the 8th of January the Ambassador proceeded to Whampoa to join the ships. At the same time a deputation of the retinue was dispatched to Macao, to make preparations for his Excellency's reception at that place.

Whampoa, beyond which European ships are never permitted to pass, is an elegant and populous village, about 18 miles below Canton. The river, near this place, is defended by a sand bank, which prevents the passage of large ships, except at high water; and two necks of land, projecting on either side of it, form the celebrated strait of Bocca Tigris.

At this place Van-Tadge-In took his farewell leave of the Ambassador. It is impossible for the praise or censure of the writer of this to reach a person of his distinguished rank; but in bestowing praise on the deserving, we gratify the best feeling of the human heart, and at the same time do honour to ourselves. This amiable man can never be forgotten by those who experienced his assiduous care, his mild condescension, and his en-

lightened conduct, during a long and troublesome attendance on the embassy. He held an exalted rank in the Chinese army—perhaps the highest; but no dignity of situation had rendered him inattentive to the minutest offices of duty. His mind seemed capable of reflecting honour on any rank; with the most benevolent heart, he attached himself to the interests of those in whose service he was employed; he had even contracted a friendship for some; and the tear of affection accompanied the last adieu.

On the 14th Lord Macartney landed at Macao; and took up his residence with Mr. Drummond, one of the supercargoes of the East India Company. Here the gentlemen of the several European factories have their houses; as they are not permitted to remain at Canton longer than is absolutely necessary for the purpose of trade.

Macao is a place of some magnitude, built in the European taste. It may be said to belong to the Portuguese, but the Chinese exercise a paramount jurisdiction. Indeed the Portuguese territory does not exceed four miles in length, and one and an half in breadth; nor can the barrier be passed, without the utmost risk. A governor and judge, appointed by the court of Lisbon, reside here; and about two hundred and fifty European soldiers are permitted to guard the place.

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The long intercourse which has subsisted between Europeans and the Chinese in this place, has not altered the established customs and habits of the latter. The Chinese never deviate from the usages of their country, which may be considered as invariable.

Without the wall is the common burying-ground of the Chinese; and in it we saw several memorials of our countrymen, whose ashes repose here. Those who die in the Roman Catholic faith have separate cemeteries: the Chinese, more liberal, we will add more christian, than the Catholics, suffer their dust to mingle with ours.

Here Mr. Plumb, the interpreter, though offered an handsome establishment if he chose to return to Europe, quitted the service of the embassy. He left his English friends with sensible regret; but naturally preferred passing the remainder of his days in the bosom of his family and his country.

On the 8th of March, Lord Macartney and retinue embarked for Europe, amid the salutes of forts and ships; and being joined by a large homeward-bound fleet of Indiamen, on the 17th proceeded to sea.

Nothing of any particular consequence happened during our voyage. We arrived at St. Helena.

Helena on the 19th of June, and remained there till the 1st of July.

On the 3d of September we were seriously alarmed by running foul of a large fleet off Portland Roads, which proved to be the Grand Fleet, commanded by Earl Howe. Two or three of the Indiamen received some damage; but except in this instance, our voyage was free from accident, and barren of interesting occurrence.

In the afternoon of this day we anchored safe at Spithead, after an absence of little less than two years from our native land.

CHAP. XVI.

Captain Mackintosh's Journey from Hoang-tchew to Chusan—Curious Method of lifting the Junks—Chinese Marriage Ceremony—Their Ideas of Slavery—Anecdote of the present Emperor.

IN the course of the preceding narrative, it was mentioned that Captain Mackintosh, and a part of the embassy, proceeded from Hoang-tchew to Chusan; on the authority of others, we present our readers with a short account of this passage; and

and shall subjoin some miscellaneous remarks, which would have interrupted the chain of regular narration.

The same kind of scenery, we are informed, presented itself in the passage to Chusan as has been described in the route we made; but the river itself was of a different nature from that on which we sailed; its course was occasionally broken by cataracts of a formidable aspect; and it required all the ingenuity of the Chinese to contrive means to obviate the difficulties of such a navigation. Yet, strange as it may appear, they apply the mechanical powers to raise vessels into a higher level of the river, or sink them to a lower. To effect which, two strong stentions are fixed in the centre of the river, from which two large beams project over the water; to these blocks strong ropes are attached, and the junk being well secured fore and aft, is in a few moments hoisted, with all its contents, from one level to another. Persons accustomed to the business are stationed at these places; and so certain and secure is their operation, that it is scarcely regarded as an impediment or hazard. The same attention, we understand, was paid to Captain Mackintosh and his party, during their passage to Chusan, as to the embassy itself.

Without adverting to numerous erroneous accounts

counts of Chinese manners and customs, with which every European description is replete, we shall briefly state what can be asserted with truth.

A marriage ceremony, during our stay at Macao, attracted our attention: as it may possibly appear a matter of curiosity to many persons in this country, a short description of it is here given. The bride was carried in a palanquin, preceded by music; various ensigns, borne by the male relatives of the bridegroom and bride, were displayed both in the front and rear of the procession. The lady being escorted to the house of her husband, mirth and festivity concluded the day.

It has been an opinion universally propagated and received, that the women are rigidly confined in this country. Enough has been said in the course of this work to prove how ill-grounded such an assertion is.

Nor is the idea of slavery being countenanced, or even tolerated here, less repugnant to truth. Certain classes of criminals are indeed punished with a servitude of longer or shorter duration, in proportion to their offence: and such persons are frequently hired out to masters, who thereby exonerate the public from the expence of maintaining them. But slavery by original purchase, or inheritance, as is customary in the West Indies, is here totally unknown. The benevolent spirit

of the government, and the mild manners of the natives, would revolt at the idea.

Sir George Staunton had purchased a black boy, named Benjamin, at Batavia. In the interior of China he was an object of no small curiosity, perhaps of pity, in proportion as slavery is abhorred: and even at Canton, I heard a merchant, who could express himself in broken English, inveigh against the inhumanity of the British nation, in suffering such a disgraceful traffic; and so contrary to the principles they profess to believe. On observing to him, that Parliament intended to abolish it, he surprized me, by naming *Mandarin Willforce*, as he called that benevolent and worthy character Mr. Wilberforce; he enumerated his efforts in the cause of human nature, and of the suffering Africans; and concluded, *God no like so fashion*; meaning, "God cannot approve of such a practice." The labours of benevolence do not always obtain such an extensive fame; but Mr. Wilberforce is sure of a richer reward, from that God, who with equal eye beholds his universal creation, and who delights in seeing man the friend of man.

Festivals in China are not unfrequent: that which celebrates the commencement of the new year is the principal. This begins, among the Chinese, on the second of our month of February; and

and is observed with the utmost festivity and joy. What religious ceremonies accompany the celebration of the new year, we are not competent to determine.

Ordinary holidays are observed in this manner: Provisions are purchased and dressed, according to rank, and situation. These viands are placed on the domestic altar, before a small idol; after a threefold obeisance to the deity, the repast and three small cups of wine, spirits, and vinegar, are carried to the front of the dwelling. The family then kneel, and pray with great fervency, beating their heads against the ground; and on rising, throw the contents of the three cups on either side.

Small rolls of gilt paper are then set on fire, and held over the meal. Afterwards small crackers are exploded over it; the repast is a second time placed before the idol; obeisances are repeated; and a social dinner concludes the ceremony.

According to ancient usage, dramatic pieces are performed on the 1st of March, in the principal streets of the different towns throughout the empire, for the amusement of the lower classes. This munificent act is at the expence of the Emperor; and is sometimes repeated for a succession of days.

Of the efficacy of the Chinese prescriptions we had

had a favourable instance. One of Captain Mackintosh's servants, on our return from Jehol, had been attacked with such a violent dysentery, that it was feared he could not proceed. A Chinese physician was called in; the interpreter explained his case; and a medicine was ordered, which speedily removed the complaint.

Few diseases, however, seem to prevail in China.

The caxee is the only coin suffered to be current in China. It is made of a white metal, about the size of a farthing, and has a square hole in the centre for the purpose of being strung into candereens and maces, two imaginary names, consisting of a certain number of caxees. Every province in China has its particular caxee; and we found the rate of exchange vary accordingly. In Peking, a Spanish dollar produced near 600 caxee; in Hoang-tchew, upwards of 700.

We shall conclude this work with an anecdote of the present Emperor of China; one of the most beneficent and enlightened monarchs that ever swayed a sceptre.

A merchant of Nankin had, with great reputation, acquired such a fortune as awakened the rapacity of the Viceroy of that province. To avoid the danger that menaced him, he divided his fortune among his children, and was content to look
up

up to them for support. Injustice, entrenched behind power, is not easily baffled: the sons of the merchant were sent to the army; the property was confiscated, under pretence that it had been too rapidly accumulated; and the merchant in vain solicited redress from this vile representative of a beneficent sovereign.

Despair gave resolution to a man, conscious of his own integrity. The merchant was determined to lay his complaints at the foot of the throne. He begged his way to Peking; and had the good fortune to be able to present a statement of his oppressive grievances to the Emperor himself. The venerable monarch perused the contents: the Viceroy of Nankin happened to be in attendance: he was charged with the crime; his confusion betrayed his guilt; and punishment became indispensable. The Emperor, after expatiating on the magnitude of the crime, commanded his head to be brought on the point of a sabre. The poor merchant was struck dumb with fear and wonder; when the Emperor relieved him by the following address: "Contemplate this awful example before your eyes; and as I appoint you Viceroy of the province of Nankin, let the fate of your predecessor teach you justice and moderation."

FINIS.